The Washington Post

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SU V1 V2 V3 V4

Breezy and cold 25/20 • Tomorrow: Sunny, but cold 33/21 **B6**

Democracy Dies in Darkness

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022 · **$3**

Legacy of Jan. 6 panel still unwritten

Report hit Trump hard, but some see his real wounds as self-inflicted

BY PAUL KANE AND ASHLEY PARKER

In the more than 2,400-word description of its focus, the committee investigating the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol never mentions the words "Donald" or "Trump." Its founding documents instead outline several purposes, functions and goals, promising to "examine and evaluate evidence" and search for "influencing factors" that led to the insurrection.

Late Thursday, after days of delays, the committee fully unveiled its conclusions, releasing an 800-plus-page report that provides recommendations for how to avert future attacks and a road map to holding those responsible for Jan. 6 criminally accountable.

The report's findings, which were previewed in hearings this summer and fall, focused primarily on laying out a damning case against Donald Trump and his allies, adding new details of testimony from the former president's advisers and family members, including as the riot was underway.

Its most important legislative proposal — rewriting electoral-college laws to clearly block the methods that Trump and his allies deployed in pressuring Vice President Mike Pence to block the vote — has already been approved in the Electoral Count Act. The legislation will be signed into law once President Biden receives a massive federal funding bill that includes the act, which won final approval in the House on Friday.

On Monday, the panel referred

SEE **COMMITTEE** ON **A6**

Durham inquiry: Cost to taxpayers is at least $6.5 million. **A2**

SETH HERALD/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Antonio Smothers jump-starts his vehicle in Nashville after a large winter storm brought freezing rain, snow and cold temperatures.

A fierce, frigid jump into Christmas

Extreme weather has taken hold of the U.S., causing power systems to fail and hampering travel

BY DANIELLE PAQUETTE AND EMMANUEL FELTON

The fearsome winter storm that forecasters likened to a hurricane within a blizzard tore through the United States on Friday, knocking out power for at least 1.5 million people while exposing nearly two-thirds of Americans to extreme weather. Pounding snow. Freezing rain. Floods. Tree-snapping wind. Frigid air that could inflict frostbite in 10 minutes.

The Arctic blast sent temperatures tumbling, some at record-breaking speed, as blizzards throttled the Great Lakes region and western New York. Even winter-tested cities such as Chicago and Detroit shuttered holiday attractions and urged people to stay inside. The air was so chilly that vapor rose from the waters of the Ohio River and Lake Michigan.

The storm that the National Weather Service described as "once in a generation" began Thursday and is expected to last through Christmas weekend, ultimately carving a 2,000-mile path across much of the country. By Friday evening, the blitz of elements had intensified into a "bomb cyclone," which forms when cold, dry air from the north slams into warm, moist air from the tropics. The danger zone extended from Canada to Mexico, and from Washington state to Florida.

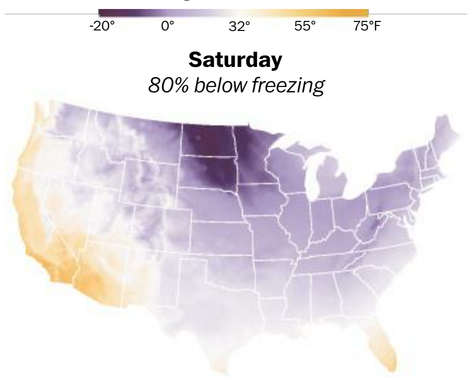
The potent storm did not respect international borders: In Canada, as in the United States, whiteout conditions and fierce winds spurred flight cancellations, shut down major highways and left hundreds of thousands without power. In southwestern Ontario, a 100-vehicle pileup blocked parts of Highway 401, a major thoroughfare.

In the United States, where almost half of the Lower 48 states were subject to powerful winds, 12 governors declared states of emergency. Outages caused by storm gusts zapped power along the East Coast and in Texas, with the worst effects in Virginia and North Carolina.

"I called it a kitchen-sink storm because it is throwing everything at us but the

SEE **STORM** ON **A11**

Mean Temperature Forecast



Forecast as of Friday 1 a.m. Eastern
Source: NOAA JANICE KAI CHEN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Travel turmoil: Disruptions continue as flight cancellations surpass 5,000 on Friday. **A10**

Disconnected: Americans in areas with poor cell service can't make calls or get alerts. **A12**

Extreme weather: Arctic warming could be to blame for blasts of cold, scientists say. **A12**

House passes $1.7T budget

DEAL COVERS BIDEN'S PRIORITIES

Bill's passage averts government shutdown

BY TONY ROMM

The House on Friday approved a roughly $1.7 trillion bill to fund the government through most of 2023, sending to President Biden a sprawling year-end package that funds his top priorities, provides new aid to Ukraine and averts a government shutdown.

The outcome marked the culmination of a two-year session of Congress that often saw lawmakers hurtling from deadline to deadline, at times threatening to push the economy to the brink. While some Republicans this week backed the spending measure in the Senate, most of them rejected it in the House — foreshadowing the perilous fights to come once the party assumes control of that chamber next year.

The omnibus provides nearly $773 billion for domestic programs and more than $850 billion for defense spending, covering expenses through fiscal 2023. It also includes nearly $45 billion in military, economic and humanitarian assistance for Ukraine, as well as about $27 billion to respond to natural disasters affecting Florida, Puerto Rico and other parts of the United States.

With it, lawmakers appended a wide array of other long-stalled legislative proposals — banning TikTok on government devices, helping Americans save for retirement, protecting pregnant workers from discrimination and rethinking the way the country counts electoral votes in the presidential election.

SEE **BUDGET** ON **A5**

Masks remain optional as viruses run rampant

Some officials steer clear of mandates, now that they are politicized

BY FENIT NIRAPPIL, HENRY ROGERS, VANESSA KJELDSEN AND SAMANTHA AGUILAR

Nearly every adult ICU bed in Oregon is occupied, driven by an uptick in respiratory viruses. Portland-area hospitals are operating at a "crisis" level for the first time since the coronavirus pandemic began. The dire picture has prompted state health officials to implore people to slap their masks on, once again, to protect against a triple threat of covid, flu and RSV as people travel and gather indoors this holiday season.

But like nearly every community confronting a third pandemic winter, the entreaty is just that — a plea. Not a mandate. Health officials in a state that was among the last to end an indoor mask requirement in March now characterize mandates as a distraction. Instead, they are counting on Americans to voluntarily don one of the most effective tools for avoiding sickness.

Mandates "have been extremely politicized, polarized and divisive," said Rachael Banks, director of the Oregon Health Authority's public health division. "We're really trying to focus on the behavior and not getting caught in the crossfire of that particular mandate."

Officials in New York and Los Angeles are also strongly recommending people cover their faces, without new requirements for anyone to actually do so. New York Mayor Eric Adams (D), who has resisted bringing back mask mandates, put on a mask Tuesday

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Covid spike: Cases up in region, with caution urged for holiday. **B1**

Ian survivors brace for holidays without a home

Three months after the Category 4 hurricane struck, thousands are still living in trailers and Airbnbs

THOMAS SIMONETTI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

For the Gauntts and their eight children, who range in age from 15 months to 15 years, their gutted house in Fort Myers Beach, Fla., briefly feels like a home again when they gather for dinner.

BY DEREK HAWKINS AND THOMAS SIMONETTI

FORT MYERS BEACH, FLA. — The big mango wood table on John and Kate Gauntt's storm-battered second floor was set with paper plates and a tray full of Costco hot dogs. The couple gathered their kids, said a quick prayer and started serving.

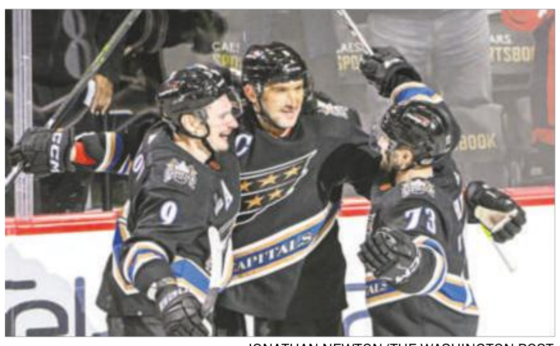
Meals like this have become sacrosanct for the family of 10 since Hurricane Ian inundated their house here in late September, destroying their belongings and forcing them to strip the interior down to the studs and subflooring. This is where they talk, laugh, play games and unwind in the evening before packing into a trailer in their driveway to sleep.

"Family is sacred," said John Gauntt, 38. "We choose the quality of our relationship over the quality of our stuff."

Three months after Ian struck, thousands of Floridians whose

SEE **IAN** ON **A7**

IN THE NEWS



JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Another mark for Ovechkin The Capitals star scored his 801st and 802nd goals to tie, then pass, Gordie Howe for No. 2 all-time. D1

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An increase in fuel prices has set off nationwide demonstrations in Jordan. A9

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Student absences are on the rise because of covid-19, respiratory infections and other illnesses. B1

Each year, a Maryland man uses holiday lights as a tribute to his young neighbor who died of cancer. B1

A woman is arrested after yelling at two D.C. police officers who were convicted in connection with her son's death. B6

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A holiday puzzle
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Probe of white extremism all but expected to end

Federal Insider
JOE DAVIDSON

When Rep. Jamie B. Raskin (D-Md.) opened a May 2019 congressional hearing to examine "the rise … of domestic terrorism, violent white supremacy," he didn't know what he was starting.

Raskin, chairman of the House Oversight subcommittee on civil rights, knew there would be more than one session, but said they "multiplied because there were so many different dimensions to the problem. … We wanted to try to get to the bottom of it as comprehensively as we could. You know, there are lots of parts of the country where fear of violent white supremacists is a part of daily life."

The seventh and last hearing concluded last week, 43 months after the first, and just before Republicans, who have other priorities, take control of the House. Taken together, the sessions are a searing examination into a defining issue for the United States. They strengthen Raskin's reputation for his dogged, methodical style of inquiry, which is more broadly recognized for his management of President Donald Trump's second impeachment.

"The main lesson people need to draw is that violent white supremacy is the deadliest domestic terror threat facing the American people. Nothing else comes close," Raskin said during a Tuesday interview. "We ignore its virulence at our own peril."

Raskin credits the hearings with pushing "substantial progress in the federal government's willingness to identify and confront domestic violent extremism."

That change was demonstrated by President Biden. Just two days into his presidency he ordered federal officials to study the domestic violent extremism threat. That led to the June 2021 release of a "National Strategy for Countering Domestic Terrorism."

SARAH SILBIGER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Rep. Jamie B. Raskin (D-Md.), center, is chairman of a subcommittee investigating the rise of violent white supremacy, which he said is the deadliest domestic terror threat facing the American people.

In a veiled swipe at his predecessor, Biden's preface to the strategy said, "We cannot ignore this threat or wish it away."

Trump was president during the first four hearings. Raskin's subcommittee characterized that period, in a statement before the June 2019 second hearing, as one of "significantly reduced resources and infrastructure" against "the increasing threat of white supremacist extremism." During the fourth hearing, in September 2020, Raskin said Trump's team "decided to mislead the public by downplaying the problem," despite Anti-Defamation League data indicating 75 percent of all extremist-related murders in the past 10 years were by right-wing extremists.

Trump's team did not respond to a request for comment.

An FBI statement said "Racially or Ethnically Motivated Violent Extremism," as the agency calls it, was elevated to a "top threat" priority in 2019, meaning "more resources have been allocated to address the threat." Most cases in this category, the FBI added, "involve those who advocate for the superiority of the white race." A Department of Homeland Security prediction emailed to The Washington Post said "those who are racially or ethnically motivated, including white supremacists, likely will remain the most lethal threats."

Nonetheless, Republican members of the panel and the witnesses they selected played down the problem with comparisons to other violence that compares little to that perpetrated by white extremists.

Mike Gonzalez, a senior fellow at the right-wing Heritage Foundation, complained, by email, that Raskin "did nothing to hold accountable those on the left who committed political violence." Gonzalez testified at the fifth hearing, in May 2021.

It's a weak comparison. Those on the left, while culprits in some cases, did far less damage than those on the right.

"White supremacists killed more people in 2021 than any other type of extremist," the Anti-Defamation League reported. Of the 29 people killed in 2021 by U.S. domestic extremists, 26 of the slayings — 90 percent — "were committed by right-wing extremists," though not all right-wingers are white supremacists, according to the ADL. Black nationalists were responsible for two, and one was by "an Islamist extremist — the latter being the first such killing since 2018."

The hearings examined a range of topics, beginning with the "consequences of inaction." Other hearings, in chronological order, focused on the federal government's response, the "transnational terrorist threat," white supremacists' "infiltration" of local police departments, the "rise of militia extremism," Biden's counterterrorism strategy and the "ongoing threat to democracy."

While the sessions exposed critical issues, they can't stop the violence.

At the last hearing, on Dec. 13, Oversight Committee Chairwoman Carolyn B. Maloney (D-N.Y.) warned that "hate is on the rise. That is why it is critical that Congress continue to shed light on this growing cancer and come up with substantive solutions to address hate and violence. We may disagree on politics, but there is no room in this country for discrimination, violence, and unbridled hate."

But Republicans apparently disagree on the need to shed more light on white violent extremism. Neither Rep. James Comer (Ky.) nor Rep. Nancy Mace (S.C.), the Republican leaders on the committee and subcommittee, respectively, responded to questions about examining domestic terrorism under a GOP-controlled House. Comer takes over as chair of the full committee next month.

Republican attempts to minimize the impact of white violent extremism were apparent from comments at last week's hearing that grossly misrepresented the admitted killer of 10 Black people at a Buffalo Tops grocery store in May. Rep. Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.) claimed the suspect, Payton Gendron, who pleaded guilty, was "an admitted socialist." That comment earned "four Pinocchios," indicating a "whopper" of a lie, from my Post colleague and fact-checker Glenn Kessler. He found Gendron, far from being a socialist, favored the "National Socialist German Workers' Party. Gendron, in effect, was a neo-Nazi."

Biggs's claims also surprised hearing witness Oren Segal, vice president of the ADL's Center on Extremism. Gendron was "so clearly motivated by the ideology, the narratives of white supremacy," said Segal, who is "very familiar" with Gendron's manifesto and online presence. "I was shocked a little bit, that it was even … a point of debate," he added by phone.

Lecia Brooks, the Southern Poverty Law Center's chief of staff and culture, said by email that the hearings on "white supremacy and extremism were the most significant examination of domestic extremism, threats to national security, and threats to our democracy in decades."

The threat isn't over, but, apparently, the examination is.

Durham's inquiry has cost taxpayers at least $6.5 million

BY PERRY STEIN

Effort has yielded two acquittals, a guilty plea for altering an email

The special counsel appointed to review the FBI's investigation of the 2016 Trump campaign has so far cost taxpayers more than $6.5 million, according to a Justice Department report released Friday.

In 2019, while Donald Trump was president, Attorney General William P. Barr appointed John Durham to examine how federal law enforcement had investigated possible coordination between Trump's presidential campaign and the Russian government.

Trump predicted at the time that Durham would uncover "the crime of the century" inside the U.S. law enforcement and intelligence agencies that conducted the investigation. But so far, two people charged by Durham have been acquitted at trial, while the third pleaded guilty to altering an email that one of his colleagues used in preparing an application to surreptitiously monitor former Trump campaign adviser Carter Page.

The special counsel's work appears to be winding down, but the Justice Department has not yet announced when it will end. A department spokesman declined to comment on Friday.

In November, Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed another special counsel — Jack Smith — to oversee the criminal probe of Trump's possible mishandling of classified documents at his Florida home and key aspects of the sprawling Jan. 6, 2021, case. No expense reports have been released in that probe.

Special counsels are independent prosecutors that attorneys general appoint to oversee high-profile investigations in "extraordinary circumstances" if they feel that their leadership could cause a conflict of interest.

The Justice Department has released incremental tallies of Durham's expenses throughout much of his 3½-year review. The latest report released Friday shows that Durham spent nearly $2.1 million between April and September 2022. About half of the total during this period — more than $1 million — went to personnel costs, with the bulk of that paying Justice Department staffers detailed to the special counsel.

About $679,000 went to contractual services, which included about $392,000 for litigative support and $287,000 for IT services. The rest of the money paid for travel and office space costs.

The other reports show that between Oct. 1, 2021, and March 31, 2022, Durham spent nearly $1.7 million on the investigation. Between April 2021 and September 2021 he spent nearly $1.9 million. And between Oct. 19, 2020 and March 2021 — the first published expense report — the special counsel spent around $934,000.

The cost summaries do not represent Durham's full expenses since his probe began in the spring of 2019. Durham was the U.S. attorney in Connecticut when Barr first asked him to review the FBI investigation. At that time though, Durham was not appointed as a special counsel who was required to publicly report investigative expenses.

He was designated as a special counsel in October 2020. That appointment protected the investigation from any potential change in political leadership after the 2020 presidential election and required the submission of a final report that could be made public.

Durham's most recent trial concluded in October of this year, and the latest expense report covers a time period that ends in September, meaning at least one additional cost report should be forthcoming.

In that trial, a jury found Igor Danchenko — a private researcher who was a primary source for a 2016 dossier of allegations about Trump's ties to Russia — not guilty of lying to the FBI about where he got his information.

In May, a jury in D.C. federal court acquitted cybersecurity lawyer Michael Sussmann, who also was accused by the special counsel of lying to the FBI.

In 2021, a former FBI lawyer, Kevin Clinesmith, was sentenced to one year of probation after admitting he had altered a government email used to justify secret surveillance of Page. Clinesmith had worked in the FBI general counsel's office starting in 2015. He told a federal judge he doctored the message but thought at the time he was inserting truthful information.

DIGEST

ARIZONA

Republican's suit over AG race tossed out

A judge has thrown out Republican Abraham Hamadeh's challenge of election results in his race against Democrat Kris Mayes for Arizona attorney general, concluding that Hamadeh didn't prove the errors in vote counting that he had alleged.

The ruling on Friday by Mohave County Superior Court Judge Lee Jantzen came after Hamadeh's attorney, Tim La Sota, acknowledged his client hadn't gained enough votes during his litigation to change the outcome of the race. Mayes finished 511 votes ahead of Hamadeh out of 2.5 million in one of the closest elections in state history.

As part of the litigation, the parties in the case were allowed to inspect a sample of 2,300 ballots. Through the inspection, Hamadeh said he gained a net six votes, while Mayes maintained she netted three votes.

"If you extrapolate the numbers, they are not going to get us to 511 votes if you take the sample we have," said La Sota, who had pushed for a larger sample size.

Hamadeh, whose race is the subject of a separate automatic recount conducted by the state because of the close results, in a tweet said his team "will await the results of the recount before deciding our next steps."

In his lawsuit, he alleged that problems with printers in Maricopa County led to a series of issues that disenfranchised voters.

A court hearing is scheduled Thursday to present results of recounts in the races for attorney general, state superintendent and for a state legislative seat.

Another judge is considering Republican Kari Lake's challenge of her loss to Secretary of State Katie Hobbs in the governor's race.

— Associated Press

ROGELIO V. SOLIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stephen Kneip and his daughter Mary Louise Kneip, 6, joke with Randy "Santa" Tannehill before the Independence Bowl college football game on Friday in Shreveport, La. Tannehill visited several tailgating sites to meet and greet with children.

COLORADO

Gov. Polis grants clemency to 24 people

Colorado Gov. Jared Polis has granted clemency to 24 people, including the co-defendant of a Cuban immigrant who was pardoned in 2017 to prevent him from being deported as well as a state trooper hailed for stopping a gunman who entered the office of a previous governor more than a decade ago but was accused of pointing a gun at a driver last year.

In one of multiple executive orders Thursday, Polis ordered Michael Clifton, who was convicted of committing an armed robbery with Rene Lima-Marin in 1998, be released on parole at the end of January.

Lima-Marin was mistakenly released from prison early and married and started a family before being sent back to prison nearly six years later in 2018. A judge later ordered Lima-Marin to be released again. But he was picked up by immigration authorities on a deportation order based on his conviction before he could return home, prompting then-Gov. John Hickenlooper to pardon Lima-Marin.

In a letter to Clifton, Polis, a Democrat, said that Lima-Marin's pardon was among the reasons he decided to issue a limited commutation of his 98-year sentence, as well as because his punishment was well beyond the typical range for such a crime and because of the work he has done in prison to help other offenders recognize the effect of their crimes on victims.

Polis also issued a pardon to and commuted the one-year probationary sentence of Jay Hemphill, who pleaded guilty to misdemeanor menacing this year. He was arrested after allegedly yelling and pointing a gun at a driver as he was crossing the street near the state Capitol in 2021.

Polis noted that Hemphill was a member of the state patrol unit that provided security at the Capitol and had protected Gov. Bill Ritter from a gunman who walked into the governor's office in 2007.

Polis also ordered that Robin Farris, who was convicted of first-degree murder in 1991 in Arapahoe County, be paroled next month after serving 31 years in prison. He noted that, had Farris been convicted under current law, the crime would have been classified as a class 2 felony, which would have made her eligible for parole more than 10 years ago.

The other 19 people who were pardoned in addition to Hemphill committed nonviolent crimes such as theft and drug possession, mostly when they were young adults, and have already served their sentences.

— Associated Press

New York house fire kills two children: Two children died, and two others were in critical condition, after a fire swept through a New York City home early Friday. Firefighters arrived at the Staten Island home just after 10 a.m. and put out the fire in about an hour, Fire Commissioner Laura Kavanagh said. Two teenagers and a firefighter suffered minor injuries, she said. Authorities did not immediately provide a cause for the fire.

— Associated Press

POLITICS & THE NATION

N.M. Democrats see a model for winning in Southwest

The party pins its hopes on heavy investment in Hispanic voters

BY LEIGH ANN CALDWELL

New Mexico Sen. Ben Ray Luján's confidence that his state can serve as a model for Democrats hoping to turn the Southwest into a party stronghold starts with his family.

His father, Ben, grew up in a Republican family but became a prominent Democratic politician because he felt the party best served the state's and his community's needs.

Luján's Republican uncle was a harder sell and didn't vote for him during his first two campaigns for Congress in 2008 and 2010.

But in 2012, the year Luján's father died, Luján said his uncle decided it was time to support his nephew and his agenda.

Since that time Democrats' fortunes in New Mexico have continued to get better. Now Luján and other party leaders there are speaking out more about their belief that the state can serve as a model for how the party can strengthen its hand in other Southwestern states by continuing to make deep investments in Hispanic voters, running Hispanic candidates and putting up a fight in traditionally more conservative districts.

"I'm very proud of the work that was done a few decades back where there was organizing from Hispanic Democratic candidates," Luján said.

Democrats have hoped to make the Southwest, or the Sun Belt, a source of reliable support for the past two decades as the political map has shifted, with Midwestern states becoming more competitive and Florida becoming increasingly Republican in recent elections. The population of the region is exploding, with transplants from all over the country, including Colorado and New York.

The Hispanic population has also grown in the Southwest, with Democrats winning over this expanding voting bloc early on while trying to beat back Republican gains in recent elections.

But through all that change in the Southwest, New Mexico has changed the least and remained, mostly, reliably blue.

Both of its senators are Democrats and its Democratic governor just won reelection. In the next Congress, all three of its House members will be Democrats. There are 45 Democrats in the state House, compared with 25 Republicans, and there are 27 Democrats in the state Senate, compared with 15 Republicans.

"New Mexico is a harbinger" for the rest of the Southwest, said Matt A. Barreto, president of BSP Research, a Democratic pollster advising the White House and campaigns on reaching Hispanic voters, adding that Colorado is close behind, followed by Nevada and then Arizona.

Luján, who rose through the ranks of the House to assistant speaker before he was elected to the Senate in 2020, said that New Mexico turned blue after years of work by Democrats to peel off rural voters.

Democrats "showed up in places that Republicans usually don't have to worry about showing up," Luján said in an interview. "It's how I was raised. It's how Dad did it. It was part of our strategy when we were successful before — you need to go talk to folks."

Republicans argue Democrats are overhyping their advantage and that the state remains a competitive battleground, despite the GOP's lack of success in recent elections, pointing, in particular, to the state's 2nd Congressional District.

"I absolutely believe that New Mexico is on the path to turning red, the same as Louisiana, Arkansas," said Stevan Pearce, a former congressman and the head of the New Mexico Republican Party. "These are long, slow, generational-type pulls."

For decades, the state's congressional delegation was dominated by Republican Sen. Pete V. Domenici, who served for 36 years before retiring in 2009. He died in 2017. Domenici used his perch on the Appropriations Committee to shower the state with federal funds, particularly the national labs. But since his retirement, the state's senators have been Democrats.

A blue state without traditional liberal attributes

New Mexico, a border state, is vast in its makeup. It's largely rural and includes oil and gas drilling in the eastern part of the state near Texas. It includes three national security research labs and 26 federally recognized tribes. Liberals reside in the cities, such as Santa Fe and Albuquerque. It is also the third poorest state in the country.

Its population growth is one of the slowest in the country, but it continues to have the largest percentage of Hispanic residents, making up nearly 48 percent in the state, according to the 2020 census. Having a stable voter bloc is a big advantage politically, too.

The rapid growth of states such as Arizona and Nevada mean that campaigns have to continually introduce candidates to voters.

New Mexico's demographics don't match traditional liberal strongholds, such as Massachusetts or California, but nearly a dozen analysts and political officials interviewed for this story said Democrats' success there is multifaceted and rests on the importance of the profile of the candidates as well as consistent voter outreach outside of campaign season.

"The political ideology is less important than the candidates' efforts to reach out to the community," Barreto said.

Luján is the type of candidate who fits well in a center-left state, his allies said. He's unabashed in his support for abortion access in a post-*Roe v. Wade* era, but in his first two years in the Senate, he has worked with Republicans to pass numerous bills focused on New Mexico, including research and development for the national labs, assistance for communities affected by wildfires and a tax credit for carbon capture to help combat climate change. Luján suffered a stroke earlier this year, which took him away from the Senate for five weeks, but he has since recovered with a full work schedule.

SARAH SILBIGER FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Sen. Ben Ray Luján (D-N.M.) says outreach to Hispanic voters has been among the keys to Democrats' success in the state.

He's from the rural northern part of the state and still lives on a small family farm in Nambé. New Mexico boasts generations of Hispanics, some of whose families have been there since before it became a state in 1912.

Luján became the first Hispanic to represent New Mexico in the Senate in 45 years, and the fourth overall, when he defeated his Republican challenger, Mark Ronchetti, in 2020, 51.7 percent to 45.6 percent.

The first Hispanic senator, Octaviano Ambrosio Larrazolo, a Republican, was elected in 1928. The second was Dennis Chavez, a Democrat, who Luján said he tries to emulate, a sign that his goal is moving into Democratic leadership. Chavez was the fourth-ranking Democrat when he died in office in 1962.

Hispanics make up a large share of voters in New Mexico — more than 3 in 10 voters in both 2018 and 2022 were Hispanic, according to AP VoteCast voter polls.

Democrats contend their support among Hispanic voters has been key to their success in New Mexico as well as other Southwest battlegrounds in the midterms. They point to key Senate wins in Arizona by Sen. Mark Kelly (D) and Nevada by Catherine Cortez Masto (D) as well as some House victories as evidence they have maintained the support of Hispanic communities despite Republican predictions ahead of the election that these voters were moving quickly into their camp.

But the numbers in recent elections also raise some potential warning signs for the party about the strength of that support, mirroring the nationwide trend.

For instance, in 2018 Michelle Lujan Grisham (D) won the gubernatorial race with support from 71 percent of Hispanic voters, according to AP VoteCast. In her successful reelection bid in 2022, she won 66 percent of the Hispanic vote. Similar drops occurred in gubernatorial races in Arizona, Colorado and Nevada during the same time period.

But the loss of support was less than anticipated and less than in Florida, where Gov. Ron DeSantis (R) picked up 11 percentage points among Latino voters between 2018 and 2022.

Florida Latinos are mostly Cuban and Puerto Rican. In New Mexico, Hispanics are multigenerational Mexican.

"The Mexican American has been a Democratic firewall for the Democrats," Barreto said.

Pearce — who represented the 2nd Congressional District from 2003 until 2019, except for one term because he ran and lost his Senate race — said the party is making inroads in registering Hispanic voters in New Mexico. He said an increasing number of Hispanics are running as Republicans, which he says is "very important because politics is about visibility."

Case in point: Susana Martinez, the Republican governor from 2011 to 2019. Even Democrats argue Martinez's leadership is a playbook for GOP success.

But Democrats also portray her success as unique to her as opposed to emblematic of Republican strength in the state overall.

Martinez was able to "break through the ranks and able to appeal to a wider range of voters," said state House Rep. Javier Martínez, a Democrat in the running to be the next speaker of the state House. "Their nominees have been candidates that do not relate to large enough numbers of voters."

Hispanic officeholders

New Mexico Democrats have done well in integrating Hispanics politically, according to political operatives and analysts who follow the state. It has more Hispanics elected to office than any other state, and campaigns are not only bilingual but bicultural. Fifty-seven percent of state House Democrats are Hispanic. Three out of five members of its congressional delegation are.

"We know it has an impact not just on vote choice but on Hispanic turnout," Gabriel Sanchez, professor of political science at the University of New Mexico, said of Hispanic integration in the state. "That's what's made New Mexico a stronghold for Democratic politics in the Southwest."

In his second term as Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee chair for the 2018 election cycle, Luján helped to recruit Xochitl Torres Small to run in New Mexico's 2nd Congressional District, one of the most competitive seats in the country and a seat that has been held predominantly by Republicans since 1968.

Torres Small won. She was the first Hispanic to represent the district, in which 55 percent of voters are Hispanic.

She said she ran because she didn't feel represented. "I didn't feel like the challenges of living on the border were really seen," she said.

Torres Small was defeated by Republican Yvette Herrell in 2020. In 2022, the candidates, party campaigns and outside groups spent about $25 million on the race, according to OpenSecrets. Herrell was defeated by Gabe Vasquez, a young Hispanic American who grew up on the border and was a member of the Las Cruces city council.

But Republicans blame the legislature for the loss, saying it created a district much more hospitable to Democrats in redistricting.

Democrats argue Republican candidates also struggled during the midterms because they were too extreme for New Mexico and too eager to back former president Donald Trump's false claims that the 2020 presidential election was stolen.

"I was furious," said Rochelle Williams, who started the group Blue CD2 NM last year to help elect a Democrat to represent the state's 2nd Congressional District. "I don't want an insurrectionist representing me."

Emily Guskin contributed to this report.

Charlie Kirk delivers a warning to RNC, and sparks backlash in the process

Donors will abandon the party if grass-roots effort is ignored, activist writes

BY ISAAC STANLEY-BECKER

Charlie Kirk, the 29-year-old activist who leads Turning Point USA and a network of conservative affiliates, wrote with a warning.

In a Monday email to the 168 members of the Republican National Committee, he told them that donors and activists would desert the party unless it changed. The result, he said, would be colossal failure in the 2024 presidential election.

"How do we plan to win in 2024 if you so boldly reject listening to the grassroots, our donors, and the biggest organizations and voices in the conservative movement?" he asked in the message, which was obtained by The Washington Post. "If ignored, we will have the most stunted and muted Republican Party in the history of the conservative movement, the likes of which we haven't seen in generations."

The extraordinary message came in the midst of a bitter GOP leadership contest, with incumbent RNC Chair Ronna McDaniel seeking to beat back a challenge from Harmeet Dhillon, an attorney and committee member from California who has been paid for legal consulting by former president Donald Trump's political action committee, among numerous clients. Kirk and his allies have vigorously promoted Dhillon, hosting her on various media platforms and staging a straw poll at a recent Turning Point summit in Phoenix.

The email also deepened an internal GOP feud over the party's disappointing performance in last month's midterms, with competing factions blaming one another for why Republicans in key races came up short.

Above all, the message showed how Kirk is squaring off with the GOP establishment. He is marshaling his well-resourced network of nonprofit groups, which gained popularity over the past six years with Trump's backing but demonstrated mixed results in races last month. Many of Kirk's endorsed candidates lost, foremost among them Kari Lake, the GOP nominee for governor in Arizona. Dhillon served as an attorney for Lake's campaign, traveling to Phoenix for the election.

Kirk alerted the RNC members to a new initiative of his group's political arm, Turning Point Action, that would seek to pick off RNC members deemed "disconnected with grassroot conservatives."

He said the effort, called the Mount Vernon Project, will "recruit leaders to serve on the RNC and at the state level who wish to better represent the grassroots voice."

The initiative, which was previously reported by Politico, is "funded graciously by donors who are vocally disenchanted" with the RNC's members, Kirk wrote.

The project brings to the national stage a model of bare-knuckled politicking used by Turning Point in its home state of Arizona, where it has worked to purge GOP officials who stood in the way of Trump's efforts to reverse the outcome of the 2020 election. Now, the focus is on the race for GOP chair, with Kirk saying at his group's weekend summit in Phoenix: "Turning Point Action might remove members of the RNC if they vote incorrectly."

In delivering his warning Monday to RNC members, Kirk laid particular emphasis on his ties to donors. "In my position, I interact with more large donors than almost anyone in the movement," he wrote.

He advised the GOP members that donors would cut them off unless the party changed. "In recent weeks, I have spent countless hours on the phone with donors who have told me emphatically that they will not support the RNC in this presidential cycle if things do not change," he wrote.

McDaniel rejected criticism of her stewardship of the party in a Wednesday interview with Fox News's Brian Kilmeade, arguing, "This is Turning Point and Harmeet trying to take over the RNC."

Of Turning Point, she acknowledged, "They do great conferences." But she said the group's broader impact is questionable. "How many young voters did they register? How many youth voters turned out this cycle? How about the college kids in Arizona, where they are headquartered?" she asked.

Kirk replied on Twitter, claiming that his group had logged more than 500,000 volunteer hours this past cycle and contacted more than 5 million voters, among other outreach.

Dhillon, for her part, criticized McDaniel's decision to go after Kirk's network.

"Turning Point USA is the leading conservative youth organization in America — exactly the kind of activists we rely on and need to motivate," she said in a statement to The Post. "It's a puzzling campaign choice for Ronna to go out of her way to attack a large segment of our current and future grassroots, volunteer and voting base."

In a recent appearance with Dhillon, Kirk praised her for taking on GOP leadership, saying, "This is a club, it's a cartel, it's a smoke-filled room, you are not supposed to ask questions."

Some RNC members were irked by Kirk's approach, according to emails obtained by The Post.

José Cunningham, an RNC member from D.C., wrote a Wednesday email to other committee members in which he addressed Dhillon directly about Kirk's remarks, asking: "Harmeet, you claim we're your friends and colleagues. Are you really okay with someone accusing of us being a 'cartel?' Where are the 'smoke-filled rooms,' Harmeet? I've never seen them."

Dhillon has made similar comments, saying on Fox News earlier this month that the RNC operated like a "corrupt driven machine inside the Beltway."

Emma Vaughn, a spokeswoman for McDaniel, said the chairwoman's decision to run for reelection reflected her backing within the party.

GOP members, Vaughn said, "rallied around the chairwoman because of her unprecedented investments in the grassroots, election integrity, and minority communities, and for taking on Big Tech and the biased Commission on Presidential Debates." McDaniel "will continue speaking with each and every member about how the party can continue building upon our investments and make the necessary improvements to compete and win in 2024," Vaughn added in her statement.

Turning Point Action's intervention into RNC races is part of an effort to "respond to our people and donors — who gave [McDaniel] a resounding vote of no confidence in our straw poll — and work to restore the RNC to the grassroots," Andrew Kolvet, a spokesman for the group, said in a statement. "Evidently that is troubling to many entrenched members of the committee who are comfortable losing."

Ben Proto, a member from Connecticut, dismissed Turning Point's initiative in an email to fellow RNC members. Without identifying Kirk's group by name, he took aim at "Celebrities who claim to have the pulse of the voters, but who talk in an echo chamber to people who already agree with them."

"And when I hear that some of these same 'celebrities' are going to start a PAC to take over state committees and county committees, and the national committee, I don't know whether to laugh or cry, because it is clear they truly do not understand how elections, at any level, work and, more importantly, how they are won," he wrote in a Wednesday email to other RNC members.

Dhillon, in response to the complaints, suggested they had been manufactured, saying in her statement to The Post that she is running an "insurgent campaign" without consultants "preparing astroturf emails and talking points."

Neither Cunningham nor Proto responded to requests for comment.

Yvonne Wingett Sanchez contributed to this report.

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Officials resist mask mandates amid an uptick of viruses

MASKS FROM A1

as he urged others to do the same.

A community college on Long Island attempted to issue a mask mandate this month but has since pulled back. Just a handful of public institutions are reimposing such mandates, including the Philadelphia school system, Passaic schools in New Jersey, the State University of New York at Purchase and Oakland, Calif., for government buildings.

The hesitancy follows years of politically generated controversy surrounding mask mandates, with Republicans in several states gutting powers to implement them. Health officials even in heavily Democratic areas say mandates are harder to justify with the widespread availability of vaccines and antivirals that help keep the infected out of hospitals. Nor are hospitals clamoring for mask mandates as they did during earlier stages of the pandemic.

Interviews with three dozen residents, workers and business owners across the United States show that Americans remain deeply divided on masking, with many unaware of the recent burden respiratory infections have put on hospitals.

Kevin Lauinger, owner of a coffee shop in Bend, Ore., that earned a reputation as a refuge for anti-maskers because of its defiance of earlier mask mandates, said he believes the mix of respiratory viruses is a feature of a normal society and is unmoved by health officials' recommendations to mask.

"When you're not dealing with mandates and are not dealing with government officials checking up on you, you can just run your business," said Lauinger, unmasked at the pickup counter along with three employees and a half-dozen customers. "People get sick. It's a natural part of being part of a community."

Others say they don't feel the urgency to mask without a mandate.

As a swarm of unmasked high school students descended upon a food court across town, Mitchell Lamer, who works at a seafood counter, said the messaging around masking is unclear, in stark contrast to the multiple text messages from pharmacies to stay up to date on his flu and coronavirus vaccine shots. Without government mandates, the 23-year-old said it's up to individuals to manage their own health. And it's just easier to follow the status quo.

"Masks are recommended but not required. For me, I'm like, 'What does that mean?'" said Lamer, who sometimes masks while attending community college in Bend. "I'm just trying to go to class."

Only 3 in 10 Americans say they consistently wear masks

EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS

People are seen with masks in New York, where officials are strongly recommending people cover their faces but haven't issued mandates.

when leaving the house, according to an Axios-Ipsos poll published in early December, the lowest rate since spring 2020. But 65 percent also said they would probably wear masks again if coronavirus cases rise in their communities.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has touted masks as one of the best ways to avoid respiratory illness but stopped short of advocating for mandates.

"You didn't see a lot of people walking around with masks in a bad flu season pre-pandemic, and as you know, not everyone is amenable to wearing a mask," CDC Director Rochelle Walensky recently told The Washington Post.

The CDC's new covid warning system emphasizes hospital admissions over positive tests for the coronavirus, a shift that acknowledges the pandemic as less deadly given widespread immunity from vaccines and previous infections. Those living in counties with a high number of covid cases in hospitals — about 11 percent of all counties this week — are urged to wear masks indoors. But those recommendations do not take into account the strain on hospitals from respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and flu, which experts say declined drastically in 2020 because of masking and other covid containment measures.

Barbara Ferrer, director of the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, said she may reimpose an indoor mask mandate if more than 10 percent of hospital beds are occupied by covid patients. That measure is now about 7 percent. Mandates should be tied to coronavirus hospitalizations rather than influenza and RSV because covid has a higher mortality rate, she said, noting that masking remains a prudent way to avoid respiratory infections.

"We might want to get comfortable with masks the way people in other countries are comfortable with masks," Ferrer said. "They don't see it as an imposition. They see it as something to be used when there's lots of respiratory illness circulating, mostly in the winter."

Masks are still required in some indoor settings elsewhere in the world, including South Korea, Taiwan and parts of Europe.

Several studies have found that mask mandates can be effective, including an analysis showing that counties without school mask requirements had higher pediatric covid rates after the start of the 2021 school year than those who did. But challenges remain in implementing mandates because businesses often do not enforce them and many people do not comply.

"We see there is very strong evidence that masks reduce covid transmission and masking together is far more effective than masking alone," said Julia Raifman, an assistant professor at Boston University's School of Public Health who tracks state covid policies. "But masks were sort of turned into a symbol of divisiveness."

When Nassau Community College on Long Island attempted to reinstate a mask mandate this month, it faced immediate blowback from the county's top elected official. Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, a Republican, insisted there is little value in mandating masks. The college quickly reversed course and recommended masks instead.

Blakeman said he has no problem with a recommendation but said a mandate would go too far when other public places are not requiring masks.

"For most people, there's covid fatigue and they want to move on," Blakeman said in an interview. "I'm not against masks. I'm against mandating masks." The college's media office would not make administrators available for an interview on the decision to rescind the mask mandate.

Masked students interviewed on campus last week said they wanted to protect themselves and their families ahead of the holidays, but lamented that many of their classmates would not mask unless compelled.

"They will wear masks again if they are told to," said Quinn Pabon, an 18-year-old mortuary science student who estimated that about 60 percent of his classmates regularly wear masks.

Philadelphia public schools plan to require masks for 10 days after students return from winter break, making it the largest school system to reinstate a mask mandate — albeit temporarily. In April, following an uptick of an omicron subvariant, the city had scrapped one of the country's only indoor mask mandates at the time, just four days after it took effect. Health Commissioner Cheryl Bettigole recently told the Philadelphia Inquirer that mask mandates in businesses are no longer necessary because the city has a high rate of mask-wearing.

Without mandates, front-line workers face heightened exposure to the barrage of winter viruses.

Maria Johanna Nieto, a 54-year-old beauty salon owner in Omaha, offers masks at the door but stopped requiring them several months ago after customers grew annoyed since the county had long lifted its indoor mask mandate. Nieto has yet to contract covid, which she credits to masking. She said she's wary of how few people mask nowadays, especially when clients come in with a cough.

"We ask them if they've been tested, but everybody lies and says yes," Nieto said. "Nobody is going to say no."

Daisy Alvarez, a 19-year-old waitress at a Mexican restaurant that doubles as a nightclub in Omaha, said masks should be the norm again as coronavirus cases rise in winter.

"I'm scared again, scared to be around people, scared to work," Alvarez said. "It's a constant worry in my head."

In a food hall in Nashville's Broadway district, a haven for live music and tourism, Deuane Saengmingpaeng was the only employee across 30 eateries wearing a mask on a recent weeknight.

The 33-year-old Thai restaurant manager said she masks because she has observed many people coughing and sneezing. She said she would like Nashville's mask mandate revived, but state lawmakers passed legislation in 2021 severely restricting local government's ability to do so.

"There have been a lot of people getting sick, and they are out and about," Saengmingpaeng said. "Even if it's small, it could be something severe for other people."

Parents are also making their own decisions on masking as children's hospitals have struggled to care for children afflicted with respiratory viruses.

At a barber shop in rural Liberty Hill, Tex., LaJoy Amthor said she would not patronize businesses that require masks as her 11-year-old son received a faux hawk. She said her children hated wearing masks at school earlier in the pandemic because they would get headaches.

"We're back to normal," said Amthor, 44, as Christmas tunes hummed in the background. "If it makes you feel comfortable, then you should [wear masks]. If you don't want to wear them, then that's absolutely your personal choice."

But Ashley Stevens, a mother of four immunocompromised children who lives in Killeen, Tex., said masking should not be regarded as just a personal choice.

Her home-schooled children, ages 4 to 17, have managed to avoid getting sick this fall, she said, because they are masked in stores as well as at their weekly doctor appointments. Her husband, a produce manager at a grocery store, wears a mask to work, but most of his customers do not. Stevens said her family would feel safer with a city mask mandate, which Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) and state lawmakers have been attempting to ban.

"By wearing a mask, you're protecting somebody's child. You're protecting somebody's mom, somebody's dad, somebody's sibling," Stevens said. "That, to me, is bigger than anything else."

Nirappil reported from Washington, Rogers from Bend, Ore., Kjeldsen from Texas and Aguilar from Omaha. Rayna Song in Nashville, Kristen Hartke in New York and Emily Guskin in Washington also contributed to this report.

'Morning after' pill label changed to delete suggestion it can cause abortion

Drug delays ovulation or may stop fertilization, regulators say

BY LAURIE MCGINLEY AND LENNY BERNSTEIN

The Food and Drug Administration approved a change in labeling for the Plan B "morning after" pill on Friday to clarify it does not prevent a fertilized egg from implanting in the uterus — language that had been cited by abortion opponents to argue the medication causes abortions and should be restricted.

For years, the FDA-approved label for Plan B One-Step and its competitors said the medication works mainly by stopping the release of an egg from the ovary or possibly by preventing fertilization of an egg by sperm. But it also suggested that if an egg is fertilized, the drug may prevent it from attaching to the wall of the uterus.

That was revised on Friday to say: "Plan B One-Step works before release of an egg from the ovary. As a result, Plan B One-Step usually stops or delays the release of an egg from the ovary. Plan B One-Step is one tablet that contains a higher dose of levonorgestrel than birth control pills and works in a similar way to prevent pregnancy."

The change was welcomed as long overdue by abortion rights groups, who worry that antiabortion groups, emboldened by the Supreme Court decision in June to overturn *Roe v. Wade*, will use misinformation about the morning-after pill to push for restrictions and bans on emergency

STEVE HELBER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Antiabortion advocates celebrate outside the Supreme Court on June 24, following the court's decision to overturn Roe v. Wade.

contraception in state legislatures next year.

Since the court's ruling, demand for the pills has soared, as women worry that their options for reproductive health are under threat, advocates said.

"It's great that the FDA is reflecting the science. But I believe that the folks who are opposed will still keep coming after it," said Mara Gandal-Powers, director of birth control access and senior counsel at the National Women's Law Center.

Antiabortion activists and conservative state lawmakers have long cited the label on morning-after pills in describing them as "abortifacients" — drugs that can induce abortions. For those who believe that a life begins when an egg is fertilized by a sperm, a drug that prevents implantation is tantamount to killing a human being.

Researchers have long disputed the idea the pill blocks implantation, however. Emergency contraception is "unlikely to prevent implantation of a fertilized egg," according to the website of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists.

The website for the antiabortion group Students for Life of America describes Plan B as a medication that can create "an inhospitable uterine environment," preventing implantation by the embryo. If that happens, "he or she will die," the website says.

But guidance added to the FDA website Friday makes clear the agency does not consider the medication an abortion pill.

"Plan B One-Step will not work if a person is already pregnant, meaning it will not affect an existing pregnancy ... ," it wrote. "Evidence does not support that the drug affects implantation or maintenance of a pregnancy after implantation, therefore it does not terminate a pregnancy."

Elizabeth Nash, principal policy associate at the Guttmacher Institute, which supports abortion rights, said that "abortion opponents have a history of intentionally misrepresenting those things as types of abortion, which is just not true. They are methods of contraception."

The morning-after pill is different from the abortion pill, mifepristone, which is used with another drug, misoprostol, to terminate a pregnancy less than 10 weeks along.

A spokeswoman at Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America, an antiabortion group, did not immediately return an email seeking comment.

The commonly used over-the-counter drug contains levonorgestrel, a synthetic hormone that can prevent pregnancy if taken within 72 hours of unprotected sex. It usually costs between $40 and $50; generic versions cost less. An FDA spokesperson said makers of generic versions have a year to make similar labeling changes to their products.

The label for Plan B had not changed since 2006, when the drug was switched from a prescription medication to over the counter.

House passes $1.7 trillion spending bill, avoids shutdown

BUDGET FROM **A1**

The House approved the omnibus on a 225-201 vote, with one member, Rep. Rashida Tlaib (D-Mich.), voting present. Only one Democrat, Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (N.Y.), opposed it. The debate itself was sparsely attended, since hundreds of lawmakers from both parties filed to vote by proxy as a result of a major snowstorm that snarled holiday travel, plunged parts of the nation into subzero temperatures and left millions of Americans without power.

Only nine Republicans crossed the aisle to join Democrats in support of the bill, as the party stayed largely united behind Rep. Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), the chamber's minority leader. On Friday, McCarthy affirmed his stiff resistance to negotiating with Democrats, arguing instead that the talks should have been postponed until January, when the GOP is set to take over the House.

In a precursor to the political battles to come, McCarthy took to the House floor earlier in the legislative debate to air numerous grievances with the spending measure — that it failed to fund border enforcement, made worse the problem of fentanyl and was "jam-packed with wokeism." He blasted the inclusion of funding for some lawmakers' pet projects, known as earmarks, even though the House GOP voted to preserve their ability to seek them in the new year.

"It'll make the border worse, it'll make inflation worse, it'll make the economy worse, it'll make the government worse," McCarthy said, promising: "In 11 days, all this changes."

Biden is now expected to sign the bill in the coming days. For now, the president Friday signed a temporary, one-week funding measure to ensure the government stays open while lawmakers prepare the fuller omnibus for enactment.

With a potential shutdown averted, the 117th Congress essentially came to its close, ending a two-year period that saw Democrats leverage their rare control of the House, Senate and White House to advance a vast political and economic agenda. The debates often proved lengthy and raucous — sometimes pitting party lawmakers against themselves — though Democrats still managed to clinch many of Biden's top legislative priorities.

Democrats worked with Republicans to secure a long-elusive deal to improve the nation's infrastructure, a $1.2 trillion package they adopted last fall to repair the country's roads, bridges, pipes, ports and internet connections. They worked together on a slew of other measures to improve U.S. science and research, fix problems in veterans' care and revise gun laws in the wake of numerous mass shootings.

At times, though, Democrats opted to forge ahead on their own — using special legislative tools to navigate past Republican opposition in the narrowly divided Senate. They muscled through a $1.9 trillion coronavirus aid package when they took over in 2021, and they clinched a deal on health care and climate change earlier this year, a much smaller successor to their original $2 trillion plan known as the Build Back Better Act.

A tectonic political shift now awaits the Capitol come January, when House Republicans could follow through on their threats to seize on looming fiscal deadlines and force the White House to accept spending cuts and major changes to Social Security and other entitlement programs. To that end, the fierce bickering Friday may offer an ominous warning about battles on the horizon, particularly since Congress must return to the matter of government funding before the end of the fiscal year on Sept. 30.

"I'm very worried about the budget discussions in 2023, because House Republicans seem determined to threaten to shut down the government if they don't get their way," predicted Sen. Chris Van Hollen (D-Md.), a member of the chamber's appropriations panel, in the days before the vote. "Because of the position of House Republicans, we're in for a very bumpy ride on budget issues next year."

The omnibus approved Friday arrived after months of hushed, bipartisan talks among a trio of top appropriators — Sens. Patrick J. Leahy (D-Vt.) and Richard C. Shelby (R-Ala.), along with Rep.

BILL O'LEARY/THE WASHINGTON POST

House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.) argued that talks over the funding bill should have been postponed until January, when the GOP is set to take over the House.

Rosa L. DeLauro (D-Conn.). They clinched a deal around the more-than-4,100-page bill in the early hours Tuesday morning as Leahy and Shelby tried to craft one final bipartisan compromise before retiring at the end of the current session of Congress.

Two days later, they successfully shepherded it through the Senate, overcoming objections from a small set of Republicans in a bid to avert a federal shutdown, which would have occurred at midnight Friday if Congress had failed to act.

The measure boosts defense spending by about 10 percent — satisfying a key GOP demand — while delivering a pay increase for military service members along with funds for new weapons, aircraft and warships. The omnibus also increases spending on some federal health, education, labor and economic programs, as sought by Democrats, even though some of the funds are at lower levels than party lawmakers would have liked. That includes new money to help heighten enforcement at a key labor rights watchdog, improve veterans' medical care and address issues at the Food and Drug Administration following a baby formula shortage this year.

"I'm very worried about the budget discussions in 2023, because House Republicans seem determined to threaten to shut down the government if they don't get their way."

Chris Van Hollen, Maryland Democratic senator and appropriations panel member, days before the vote

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) — delivering what she described as likely her last speech as the chamber's leader — said the package ultimately is critical to "keep from shutting the government down, but more importantly, to meet the needs of the American people."

House Republicans largely sat out of the omnibus talks. Instead, McCarthy led his party in arguing for a short-term funding extension, which would have kept the government running into next year, with federal spending frozen at existing levels.

But congressional leaders and negotiators rejected that approach — and even Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) supported the omnibus out of a belief that it was imperfect, yet provided ample funding for the Pentagon. That prompted McCarthy to assail McConnell last week, then later side with conservatives including Reps. Chip Roy (R-Tex.), Scott Perry (R-Pa.) and Andy Biggs (R-Ariz.), who pledged in a public letter to "do everything in our power to thwart even the smallest legislative and policy efforts" of senators who backed the omnibus.

For McCarthy, their support is critical, as he struggles to amass the votes needed to become speaker in a narrowly divided House next year. Democrats at one point chided him over his still-unresolved race: "After listening to that it's clear he doesn't have the votes yet," remarked Rep. Jim McGovern (D-Mass.) on the chamber floor.

Conservatives, meanwhile, lambasted Democrats for what Roy at one point described as a "fake spending Democrat priority bill that the American people resoundingly rejected in November." At times shouting, he faulted lawmakers for trying to finish the omnibus speedily before the holiday and choosing to vote from afar, by proxy, even though Republicans also availed themselves of the option.

"The American people deserve us to be here over Christmas," Roy said.

McCarthy's top deputy, House Minority Whip Steve Scalise (R-La.), previously encouraged Republicans to vote against the one-week funding extension that gave lawmakers more time to reach a deal — a move that would have triggered a shutdown. On Tuesday, Scalise's aides also recommended a vote against the omnibus, arguing that the bill is "designed to sideline the incoming Republican House Majority" with its spending increases.

Still, some Democrats maintained this week they saw reason for hope even amid an outpouring of GOP opposition. Hours before the House voted, Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-N.Y.) said at a news conference that the omnibus illustrated why the "Trump way doesn't work" — and how there is still an appetite for bipartisanship.

"Not all the Republicans are MAGA," Schumer said, referring to the former president's campaign slogan. "Following MAGA is like Thelma and Louise, going over a cliff, and that's what we saw in the election."

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MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

The House Jan. 6 committee reviews video footage from past hearings at its final public hearing Monday. The panel on Thursday released its 800-plus-page report on the 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Jan. 6 panel aimed to write history. But has it hurt Trump?

COMMITTEE FROM **A1**

Trump for criminal prosecution on four counts, a recommendation that now rests with the Justice Department.

The final weeks of the panel's work had their share of internal drama, as current and former advisers battled over which pieces of the investigation to highlight — relegating law enforcement and security failures, for example, to a 30-page appendix in the back.

Regardless of those disputes, however, lawmakers and independent analysts credited the nine-member committee with providing the most authoritative account yet of Trump's involvement in the events leading up to the Capitol assault and his lack of any action for more than three hours after it started.

And, with those details more deeply embedded into the public consciousness, committee members believe they have succeeded in one of their unwritten goals: complicating Trump's ability to win elected office again, by making sure as many voters as possible fully understand Trump's role in helping incite the deadly riot.

The most outspoken anti-Trump member of the committee, Rep. Liz Cheney (R-Wyo.), used her concession speech after losing her primary in August to assert that she would "do whatever it takes to ensure Donald Trump is never again anywhere near the Oval Office," a turn of phrase she echoed during Monday's closing proceedings.

"No man who would behave that way at that moment in time can ever serve in any position of authority in our nation again," Cheney said.

Trump spokesman Steven Cheung called the committee's work "a stain on the country's history."

"They have continued to target President Trump and his allies because they aren't interested in the truth, but instead are focused on trashing democracy for their own political gain," Cheung said in a statement.

The committee's emphatic conclusion comes on the heels of the November midterms, in which voters rejected many candidates who echoed Trump's extreme election rhetoric.

In the six most competitive states for the presidency in 2020, Trump this year endorsed nine candidates for Senate or governor who had never won statewide office. Eight of them lost, and the only winner, Nevada gubernatorial candidate Joe Lombardo, ran the most conventional Republican campaign of the group.

Those losses cost Republicans a chance at the Senate majority, and Republicans' down-ballot struggles helped Democrats flip state legislatures in three battleground states. At least a dozen Trump-inspired candidates for the House lost close races, leaving his party clinging to a tiny majority with which it will have little ability to govern in a conservative manner.

"Being associated with Trump and his election denial was a big fat liability in key swing states," said Amy Walter, publisher of the Cook Political Report and a leading independent political analyst.

Thursday's report provided the public with vivid new details about how Trump and his allies worked to overturn his 2020 election loss and the extent of the warning signs about the danger in Washington on Jan. 6.

Among the evidence was an exchange indicating that Trump aides believed their boss approved of what he was seeing on television as his supporters stormed the Capitol.

"Potus im sure is loving this," one Trump aide, Robert Gabriel, texted to another at 2:49 p.m. By then, both the House and Senate chambers had been evacuated, one rioter had been shot, and police were engaged in hand-to-hand combat with rioters inside and outside.

Alex Jones, the right-wing conspiracist who has claimed that the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre of 26 schoolchildren and educators was a hoax, was in touch with top Trump advisers that day, the report said, texting GOP fundraiser Caroline Wren to ask "when he should leave the Ellipse and begin the march."

"We are going to have you lead the march," Jones told others about what White House officials told him.

The report tallied at least 200 efforts by Trump or his inner circle to pressure lawmakers or officials in states Biden won that had Republican-controlled legislatures; offered new detail about how extensively authorities catalogued what the panel called a tenfold increase in threats of violence in the weeks before Jan. 6; and concluded that Trump's "Stop the Steal" rallies attracted violent extremist groups and helped nudge their behavior into the mainstream.

The revelations could add to a political shift that Walter and other experts saw beginning to happen a few months ago, just as the committee hearings had started, at a time when Trump's march to the 2024 presidential nomination seemed all but preordained.

"Prior to the Jan. 6 committee hearings, his grip was just so strong," said Sarah Longwell, an anti-Trump Republican strategist who has conducted regular focus groups with Republican voters.

"You would ask, 'Do you want to see Trump run again in 2024?'" Longwell said, noting that at the time, at least half the Republican hands would rise in support for Trump — and often more. But that changed during the summer, she said, as the Jan. 6 hearings started drawing attention, including several prime-time sessions that drew nearly 20 million viewers across all networks.

"We would have groups where zero people raised their hands [in response to that question], and the way they talked about it was around his baggage, his electability," Longwell said.

Others who supported the committee's work are reluctant to give too much credit to the panel for weakening Trump. They suggest that the former president's erratic actions — such as keeping classified documents at his Florida residence and private club and hosting antisemites for a pre-Thanksgiving dinner — have precipitated his political erosion.

"As a doctor, I'm sorry, I always say there is multi-factorial analysis. There's more than one factor taking place," said Sen. Bill Cassidy (R-La.), who voted to convict Trump in his February 2021 impeachment trial.

"If Representative Cheney's effort was to discredit President Trump, a lot of Donald Trump's actions in the last six months would probably list him as a co-conspirator in that effort," said Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.), chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Those who remain close to Trump contend the former president and his allies successfully branded the committee's work as a partisan effort once House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) rejected several Republican picks and instead went with her own selections: seven Democrats and only two Republicans — Cheney and Rep. Adam Kinzinger of Illinois, another anti-Trump lawmaker.

"You had half the country right off the bat who were like, 'Eh.' And everyone immediately retreated to their corners," said one Trump adviser, who spoke on the condition of anonymity to discuss the private deliberations of the former president's inner circle.

Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, the top Republican on the Intelligence Committee, said Tuesday of the Jan. 6 panel: "It's a partisan committee — I don't pay any attention to it."

Some legal experts were left wanting additional details about the investigation.

Barbara McQuade, former U.S. attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, said she still had some questions about potential links between groups such as the Oath Keepers and the Proud Boys that played a leading role in the attack on the Capitol and the Trump advisers who were working out of the Willard Hotel a block from the White House, plotting the attempt to get Congress to block certification of Biden's victory.

The committee "ran out of time," McQuade said, acknowledging that the panel faced a year-end deadline once it became clear Republicans, who probably will disband the committee, were going to take over the House in January. "It would have been great if they could have had Mike Pence or Mark Meadows in there. But they did accomplish a tremendous amount."

Ultimately, she added, "yes, I think they have achieved their goals."

Aides to the former vice president and former White House chief of staff did testify, and Meadows did turn over thousands of text messages — prompting Kinzinger to call him the "star witness" even though Meadows never submitted to direct questioning.

Rubio, who clashed with Trump for the 2016 Republican presidential nomination but has been supportive in recent years, also dismissed the committee's "credibility," citing its "completely made-for-TV production," with hearings that incorporated video presentations and other unconventional approaches that separated it from the usual stodgy affairs on Capitol Hill.

But that high-level production won kudos even from some Trump advisers, who acknowledged that the former president could not stop watching. "He's obsessed with anything on TV," said the adviser who spoke on the condition of anonymity. "The fact that it was this prime-time thing — he was definitely paying attention to it."

Democrats certainly approved of the unorthodox presentation.

"They captured America's attention, and I think that most congressional hearings are pretty boring," said Warner, who has helped lead many high-profile hearings, including on Russian efforts to influence the 2016 election. "They managed to do it in a slightly different way."

Cassidy, the Senate Republican, said that the most important work came in nailing down interviews of key Trump insiders, providing critics with more ammunition to rebut Trump's most extreme claims about 2020.

"The more information that the public has, from credible sources about important events in our society, is a good thing," Cassidy said.

Referring to the former first daughter, White House counsel and West Wing aide whose testimony frequently undercut Trump's claims, Cassidy added: "If you have an interview with Ivanka Trump, Pat Cipollone or Cassidy Hutchinson, those are things that added to our understanding."

Walter, of the Cook Political Report, noted that if the midterm elections had gone the other direction — if Trump acolytes such as Arizona gubernatorial candidate Kari Lake had triumphed and Republicans had won the Senate majority behind Trump devotees such as Herschel Walker of Georgia — the former president would have been crowing about how little impact the Jan. 6 committee had.

"The media attention given to the January 6 hearings helped to raise the saliency of the 'democracy is on the ballot' message that President Biden was stressing," she said, while noting there is not a direct cause and effect.

Longwell's focus groups, meanwhile, showed that over time Republican voters came to have a more nuanced view of Trump, not fully breaking from him but getting ready to turn the page.

"Trump just wasn't at the center of their universe anymore," she said. "There were other people they were starting to look at, and that has just really continued."

Trump remains atop most early 2024 Republican polls, and he could still end up winning the nomination with relative ease. But his standing has slipped over the past few months — a change noted by Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell (R-Ky.) during an interview with NBC News released Friday.

"Here's what I think has changed: I think the former president's political clout has diminished," said McConnell, who declined requests to discuss the Jan. 6 committee report this week.

YouGov, which has broken down and tracked Trump's favorability among Republicans, detects a slow, steady erosion. When the hearings started in June, 83 percent of Republicans had a favorable opinion of him. That ticked down to 79 percent in late July after the bulk of the hearings.

While he remained at 79 percent in late October, Trump's favorability dropped below 70 percent last week, the lowest it has been since the tracking started.

The Trump adviser credited that fall to a long "list of self-inflicted wounds" by the former president, including the criminal investigation of allegations of mishandling classified documents and his nonstop talk about the 2020 election.

"I never hear January 6 committee stuff from any regular Republican out there I might talk to," the adviser said.

But many say the committee did inflict chinks in Trump's armor — especially by fanning the perception, even among some Republican voters, that he's a political loser.

"I think the red wave becoming the red ripple probably had as great an impact as anything," Cassidy said, noting how many races Trump's candidates lost. "People started to say we can't win with this guy — presidency, House, Senate, now midterms. This seems to be an anchor. That's when I started to see things change."

Hannah Allam, Aaron C. Davis and Yvonne Wingett Sanchez contributed to this report.

"If Representative Cheney's effort was to discredit President Trump, a lot of Donald Trump's actions in the last six months would probably list him as a co-conspirator in that effort."

Sen. Mark R. Warner (D-Va.),
chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee

The holidays look different after Ian

PHOTOS BY THOMAS SIMONETTI FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

FROM TOP: Workers clear debris from a road in Fort Myers Beach, Fla., on Sunday, three months after Hurricane Ian came through. A bar in Fort Myers hosts a holiday party. Kate Gauntt, right, takes a break from wrapping gifts to hug a friend. The Gauntts, who have eight children and are living in a trailer in their driveway, attend church in Fort Myers.

IAN FROM **A1**

homes were damaged or destroyed in the Category 4 hurricane remain displaced. The total number living without permanent housing is unclear, but the Federal Emergency Management Agency has provided housing assistance to more than 55,000 households, according to FEMA statistics, hinting at the scope of the problem.

Many of those who lost homes say they felt the foundations of their lives and futures shift beneath them. Some face the prospect of permanent displacement if their fortunes don't change in the new year. Others wrestle with painful decisions about how to move forward in a region devastated by the historic storm.

For the Gauntts and their eight children, who range in age from 15 months to 15 years, the gutted house briefly feels like a home again when they gather for dinner.

But their situation is untenable. There are too many construction hazards for the family to stay inside for long, and the trailer is cramped. The couple worries about the older kids growing restless as this limbo drags on. As the holidays approach, they face an agonizing choice: part with the house and uproot the family or slowly chip away at repairs until they can move back in.

"At the end of the day," said Kate Gauntt, 34, "we're still kind of living in a war zone with kids."

Christmas in an Airbnb

In an Airbnb in central Fort Myers, Toby Hillen poured a glass of Hawaiian Punch and sank into the couch with her dog, a Chihuahua-dachshund named Cody.

It had been another exhausting day of paperwork and phone calls in the seemingly endless scramble to find a stable place to live. She had already been denied a temporary trailer from FEMA. Now she was waiting on rental assistance.

"Trying to get any answers," she joked, "is like trying to explain how the color nine smells."

The past month has felt like a race against time for the 51-year-old and her teenage daughter, Emily.

The mobile home they shared in Fort Myers filled with nine inches of sewage, leaving it uninhabitable until she can pay for a full renovation.

The vacation rental they were in now was a stopgap, set to end three days after Christmas with no option to extend. Even if they could stay, Hillen's salary as a cashier at a miniature-golf course wouldn't be enough to cover it.

For weeks she scoured apartment listings. Prices had spiked in the area, but moving to a cheaper place farther inland was out of the question.

"The only normalcy we have," Hillen said, "is that my daughter can go to school, and I can go to work."

Two of the apartments they toured were non-starters. One was badly storm-damaged, the other tucked in a neighborhood where they didn't feel safe.

Finally, a suitable two-bedroom came up. They could barely afford it. But it was clean and quiet, and close to Emily's school. Plus, it had hurricane windows. Hillen signed the lease.

They're spending Christmas in their Airbnb. A few people in the community helped them with presents, and Hillen put up a tiny tree in the living room. The real gift, though, would be the new roof over their heads.

"That hurdle is crossed," Hillen said. "Now we've just got to figure out how to furnish the place."

'The best we can'

Scott and Sammy Wilson met here years ago, when he was a bouncer and she was a bartender at the Lani Kai Island Resort. They had come for the beach, for the sun, and stayed for each other, finding work in a supply house for the shrimp boats on San Carlos Island.

Ian left their two-bedroom house by the boatyard mangled beyond repair and wiped out the mobile home they owned across the street. Stress from the storm killed their aging dogs, Trixie and Slayer. Scott Wilson lost thousands of dollars' worth of welding tools.

Also gone: The 1984 Chevrolet Camaro that he bought for $700 a quarter-century ago. It had driven like new thanks to the work he had put into it. But the waters claimed the car, and now it lay buried in a 15-foot trash heap near his yard, only its license plate visible beneath a mass of scrap wood and tree limbs.

On a recent Friday afternoon, Wilson, 47, climbed a ladder into the living room of his house and took stock of all the loss one more time.

"We're trying to do the best we can with what we have left," he said. But there's only so much they can salvage. And the mold is slowly creeping over every surface.

Help has come in bursts. The couple had been living for weeks on a futon in a welding shop when family members in the Northeast bought them a 32-foot trailer and drove it down. Relief workers brought generators and food. And a pair of FEMA checks — one for $700, another for $2,282 — helped cover rent and utilities.

With about 50 shrimp boats still grounded or sunk, the couple's work has dwindled. Some days, there's little to do but share beers and talk shop with the boat workers under a canopy tent in San Carlos Maritime Park. They've mulled whether to leave the area or even the state, maybe returning to Wilson's native New Jersey.

But this is still home.

"I don't like giving up on anything," Wilson said. "And I'm not going to start with this."

'My son's future'

John Velez scanned what was left of the bathroom doorway in his squat, single-family home and let out a nervous laugh.

"We had the kids' height marks here," he said. "That's gone."

The 33-year-old once had visions of turning this into the Thanksgiving house, the Fourth of July house, the "place where the family comes together and forget their problems," he said. His father had bought it more than a decade ago. One day Velez hoped to hand it down to his children — Sadie, 10, and Caden, 7.

"In my culture, the house is a symbol of the family," said Velez, who was born in Colombia and came to the United States in 2004. "It gets passed down."

But the hurricane upended that dream, flooding the property in the Harlem Heights neighborhood of Fort Myers and tearing up the roof. It also hit his business. Velez runs a tree service company called MSF, short for "my son's future" and "my Sadie's future." He lost chain saws, power pruners and two Ford F-150s in the storm.

The family is in an apartment now. Velez drops by to check his mail and inspect the property but never stays long. They had to strip the waterlogged drywall and trim, leaving only studs, exposed cinder blocks and plastic sheeting. Memories of what it used to look like and how they narrowly escaped the flooding are still fresh.

These days, Velez is focused on other things. He's getting his tree service up and running again. He's also working on himself, he said, attending therapy to help him process all he and his family have been through.

He's not sure what it will take to rekindle his dream for the house. A redesign would help, or at least some new drywall and paint.

"This will forever be home, but we're traumatized," he said. "It's an open wound still."

Finding peace

On Sunday morning, John and Kate Gauntt shuffled their kids into a 12-seat passenger van and headed to church in Fort Myers. Both of their vehicles — a Chevrolet Silverado 2500 and a 15-seat van — were totaled in the storm. This one was a donation from a family friend.

As they crossed the steep bridge that connects Fort Myers Beach to the mainland, John Gauntt peered at the wreckage below. There was so much left to clean up.

"It used to be, 'Wow, look where we live,'" said Gauntt, who runs a charter fishing business. "Now it's, 'Wow, look at all the shrimp boats still sitting on top of houses.'"

This had been home for two decades. His parents had bought their house when he was a teenager, and the couple purchased it from them in 2019. Gauntt and his father had spent years fixing it up, while his mother, a decorator, gave the interior a distinctive touch. "I have been part of every piece of trim and beadboard in there," Gauntt said.

They loved their community, too. An annual Christmas toy drive held by a local nonprofit at a vacated seafood restaurant drew an outpouring of donations for families affected by the storm. Kate Gauntt had spent the previous afternoon picking out presents for her youngsters and wrapping them in the dining area with a group of other parents.

In a perfect world, they would stay. But the storm brought a reckoning.

To get the house to code, they would need to rebuild from the ground up. Without some sort of financial windfall, that would be prohibitively expensive. They could also stay and repair it themselves. But that would take long hours of labor over several months at least, during which time they would have to live as they do now, packed into their trailer.

Selling, heartbreaking as it would be, felt like a more realistic option. So the couple put their house on the market, hoping that if an offer did come through, it would be enough to finance a new place that fit their large family. "It's our responsibility to have our kids in a safe house," John Gauntt said, "not an ongoing project."

While they were on the road, a text came in from the couple's real estate agent. "Bingo!" it read. "Showing request for 1:45 to 2:00 today. Good?"

"Go for it!" Gauntt texted back.

At church, the family listened to a service about finding peace. "What disturbs our peace?" the pastor asked. Obstacles, he said. Unmet expectations.

"God doesn't always pick the easy path for us," he continued. "Does anybody like the easy path? I know I do." Gauntt raised his hand.

Afterward, in the parking lot outside, the couple tried not to think too hard about the text from the real estate agent. An open house the day before hadn't drawn much interest. For now, the biggest question was where to take their gaggle of kids for brunch. The house could wait.

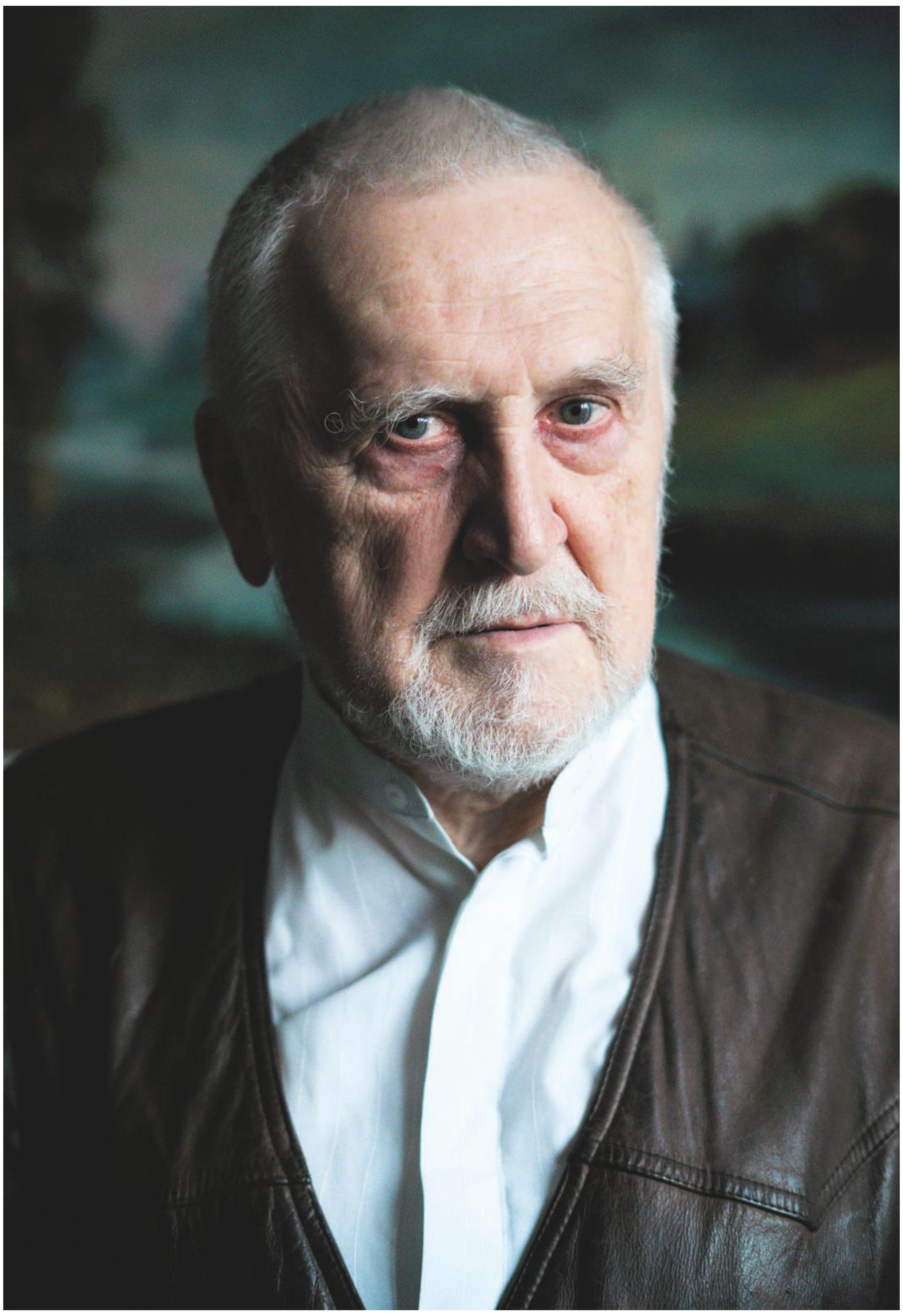
"This will forever be home, but we're traumatized. It's an open wound still."

John Velez, resident of the Harlem Heights neighborhood in Fort Myers, Fla.

THE WORLD

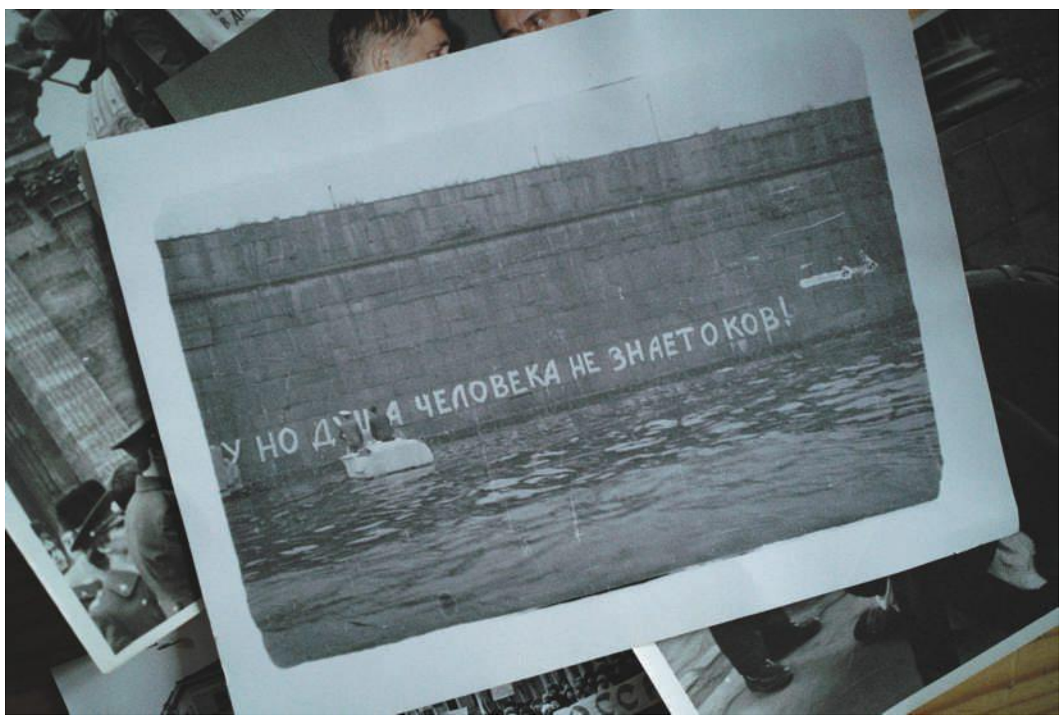
A 1976 encounter with Lt. Putin

Soviet artists painted a freedom message. A KGB officer, and future leader, would investigate.



MARY GELMAN/VII AGENCY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Yuly Rybakov, now 76, and another Soviet dissident were jailed after painting a message on St. Petersburg's Peter and Paul Fortress, seen below. It was Rybakov who coined the words: "You may crucify freedom but the human soul knows no shackles."



BY ROBYN DIXON

RIGA, LATVIA — A Russian historian was browsing a display on Soviet dissidents in a dim corner of St. Petersburg's political museum last month when the name on a 1976 KGB search warrant jumped out: "Lt. Putin."

The historian, Konstantin Sholmov, had found a previously unknown document touching on President Vladimir Putin's early KGB career, specifically the investigation into the city's boldest and most poetic Soviet-era protest, in which two artists painted four-foot-high letters on the Peter and Paul Fortress.

"You may crucify freedom but the human soul knows no shackles."

One of the pair, Yuly Rybakov, now 76 and the dissident and rights activist who coined those words, said in an interview that he believes Putin is turning Russia into a gigantic prison camp once again.

Putin's career as a KGB officer has long explained his approach as president. But his role in searching the home of the other artist who painted that slogan, Oleg Volkov, was not known until Sholmov stumbled on the document in the Museum of Political History of Russia, snapped it and posted it on Facebook.

St. Petersburg opposition politician Boris Vishnevsky said it is definitive proof of Putin's personal involvement in the search as a 23-year-old KGB lieutenant — a precursor to his 23 years as Russia's leader, which have been characterized by harsh repression of political dissent, persecution of independent journalists and the repeated jailing of opposition figures.

Putin graduated with a degree in law from Leningrad State University in 1975 and joined the KGB that year after being earlier targeted for recruitment. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said he could not confirm whether Putin took part in the 1976 investigation,

As Putin wages a brutal war on Ukraine for reasons that are unclear to many citizens, Sholmov said, the 1976 protest should send a message of courage to Russians today, and inspire them to speak out.

"We all knew where he worked and who he was," said Sholmov, referring to Putin. "But in the current situation, I think everyone is trying to figure out what he or she can do to stop the war and oppose the regime. And now attention has been drawn back to those artists, which is very symbolic, because they knew all too well in 1976 that they were destined not for success, but for a criminal case."

"They knew that, and they still took that action," Sholmov said. "Now probably many people are revisiting this case and thinking that it is an example to follow."

Rybakov and Putin — one who has spent his life fighting for freedom, the other who has spent his life crushing it — symbolize the long tug of war between the secret police and political dissidents over Russia's fate.

Rybakov was born in a Soviet gulag in 1946. His mother, an administrative assistant, smuggled in food to starving prisoners and fell in love with Rybakov's father. Yuly Rybakov grew up surrounded by dissidents and founded an underground group that transcribed and distributed tiny books by banned authors.

The group posted leaflets and sneaked into transport depots at night to paint slogans on the backs of trams. Rybakov still chuckles at the memory. He saw his role as confronting evil.

"I hated the regime," he said in the interview. "I realized very early that we lived in the largest concentration camp in the world, and we had barbed wire along the perimeter of the territory."

"The KGB hated us of course," he added. "They did not like the idea that we wanted to be in the open and exhibit our works to many people. Our idea was to create an all-union exhibition of nonconformist art. They did not like that we talked to foreign journalists and met foreign diplomats."

In May 1976, Rybakov's close friend, dissident artist Yevgeny Rukhin, died in a fire in his garret studio in St. Petersburg, where he was meeting with friends. A woman, Ludmila Boblyak, also perished.

Rybakov and other activists were sure it was a KGB arson attack and tried to stage a memorial exhibition at the Peter and Paul Fortress along the Neva River, which was quickly crushed. Then, they staged a hunger strike. "I got a phone call from a strange man who said: 'We don't care. In fact, it's better for us if you all starve to death.'"

So he and Volkov decided that painting a slogan on the fortress wall — or an inscription, as he calls it — would have more impact. Creeping along the riverbank one August night with buckets of white paint and rollers, Rybakov's blood pounded in his temples.

"I was afraid, but I'd been involved in this underground activity for a long time, and I knew that at some point I would end up in prison," Rybakov said. He told Volkov the words he had come up with.

"Oleg became very worried. He said, 'It's too long. We'll never finish it in time.' " They managed to paint the slogan, threw their rollers and paint into the river, washed their hands and walked away, trying not to run.

The river flooded that night, and the next morning police bobbing in a boat tried, rather clumsily, to cover the letters using coffin lids from a nearby workshop. But a few weeks later, Rybakov, Volkov and two women were arrested. Volkov, who died in 2005, was present when the KGB searched his apartment.

"The search took a very long time and was very unpleasant. And as we have just found out, one of the guys who carried out the search was our future president Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin," Rybakov said.

Ryabkov said Putin also took part in raiding the apartment of one of the arrested women, Soviet poet Julia Voznesenskaya, who told friends she recognized Putin from the investigation after he was appointed acting president in 1999.

The KGB seized cameras, film negatives of banned books, typewriters and tape recorders. Rybakov and Volkov were charged with anti-Soviet activities. Rybakov was sentenced to six years in a penal colony above the Arctic Circle and Volkov to seven years. The arrested women, Voznesenskaya and Natalia Lesnichenko, were freed after the two men insisted that they took no part.

After life in the intellectual milieu of Soviet dissidents, Rybakov was shocked by the apathy of most inmates. "I had no idea before what my people were like, and after my release, I had doubts about whether these people even wanted freedom and whether my struggle for their freedom was worth it. But this kind of despondency did not last long."

For some Russians, it is a question that echoes today.

Rybakov said his 1976 protest is still relevant "because unfortunately nothing has changed." He said that the KGB was always the "bloodiest of all the security services" and that no one should be surprised that Putin built "a fascist regime and now it's restricting our civil rights."

After the Soviet state collapsed, Rybakov became a politician, lawmaker and human rights advocate. When Chechen rebels took 1,500 people hostage at a hospital in the Russian town of Budyonnovsk in June 1995, Rybakov and others offered themselves as hostages in an exchange for women with newborn babies.

Years ago, he was tipped off by a security guard that the yellowing 11-volume KGB case file on him and Volkov had been abandoned in a building with other documents, so he took it, skimmed it and gave it to the museum.

When he learned recently that the file contained Putin's name, he said he felt "surprise and a laugh, because knowing the KGB so well, I did not have any illusions about Putin. He has always been KGB and will always be KGB."

"It's a small thing," he said. "But it is significant because it shows what his ideas were and what he has turned into." Still, Rybakov is hopeful. "I don't know when and how, but this regime will fall," he said. "And finally after it falls, Russia will start its way to freedom."

Natalia Abbakumova contributed to this report.

DIGEST

IRAN

Currency nears record low as unrest goes on

Iran's currency hovered near a historic low against the U.S. dollar on the unofficial foreign exchange market on Friday amid renewed street protests in the restive southeast, where a prominent dissident Sunni Muslim cleric denounced a bloody government crackdown on street demonstrations.

The unrest was triggered by the Sept. 16 death in detention of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish Iranian woman who was arrested for wearing "inappropriate attire" under Iran's strict Islamic dress code for women.

The protests, in which demonstrators from all walks of life have called for the fall of Iran's ruling theocracy, have posed one of the biggest challenges to the Shiite Muslim-ruled Islamic Republic since its installation after the 1979 revolution.

"My advice is not to beat up citizens. No government shoots its own citizens like this one. ... Let soldiers stay in their barracks," Molavi Abdolhamid, an outspoken Sunni cleric, was quoted by his website as saying during a sermon at Friday prayers in Zahedan, capital of the restive Sistan-Baluchistan province.

— Reuters

NORTH KOREA

Missiles add to tension over arms allegation

North Korea fired two ballistic missiles toward the sea off its east coast Friday, the South Korean military said, the latest in an unprecedented number of missile tests this year.

Coming only days after two other missiles were launched and a day after allegations were made that the country is shipping munitions to Russian forces in Ukraine, North Korea continued actions its neighbors say are destabilizing the region.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said the missiles flew 217.5 miles and 155 miles, respectively, after being fired at around 4:30 p.m. local time from the Sunan area of the North Korean capital, Pyongyang. Japan's coast guard also reported a suspected ballistic missile launch.

Such launches are a "serious provocation that harms peace and stability" on the Korean Peninsula and a clear violation of U.N. resolutions, South Korea's military said.

— Reuters

Congo's M23 rebels withdraw from some seized areas: Democratic Republic of Congo's M23 rebels began withdrawing Friday from some territories they had seized in recent offensives as part of what one of the group's leaders termed a goodwill gesture in a cease-fire brokered by East African regional leaders. The rebels handed over positions they had occupied around Kibumba, some 12 miles north of the city of Goma, to commanding officers of the East African Community regional force.

Man on FBI most wanted list arrested in Spain: Spanish police said Friday that they had arrested one of the FBI's Ten Most Wanted Fugitives, who was staying at a hotel in Madrid under a false identity. Michael James Pratt, a New Zealand citizen, had been sentenced to life in prison for child pornography, sexual exploitation and sexual assault in the United States. Police said he was involved in the audiovisual production of pornography, recruiting underage girls and young women through deception between 2012 and 2019.

Suspected Pakistani militants blow themselves up: Pakistani militants thought to have been on the verge of carrying out a suicide bombing in Islamabad's government district blew themselves up Friday as police pursued their car, killing one officer, authorities said. The interior ministry said the vehicle had been heading for a high-value target in the capital, while Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said timely intervention by the police averted a "bloodbath."

— From news reports

Over 150 refugees have been stranded at sea for weeks without rescue

BY REBECCA TAN

They had boarded the boat with hopes of a new start.

A single mother who hadn't been able to work thought she'd finally find employment in a new country. A 17-year-old who dreamed of receiving higher education. A young woman on her way to meet her new husband.

But days after leaving their refugee camp in Bangladesh, the engine on their boat failed. And for more than 2½ weeks, all three of them, along with more than 150 other Rohingya Muslim refugees, have found themselves adrift in the Andaman Sea in the northeast Indian Ocean. Food and water ran out more than 10 days ago, according to relatives of those on board. And as many as 20 people have already died, including children, per the United Nations.

Despite increasingly desperate appeals for help, neighboring countries have not dispatched help — or given any indication that they intend to, activists say.

"Please," said Mohammad Rezuwan Khan, whose sister and niece are on board the boat. "I ask the international community to not let them die."

"Rohingya are human beings," he added. "Our lives matter."

In 2017, following targeted attacks by the Myanmar military that the United States now considers acts of genocide, hundreds of thousands of Rohingya fled Myanmar and settled in Cox's Bazar, a city on the southeast coast of Bangladesh, forming what has become the biggest refugee camp in the world.

For years, groups of refugees have tried to leave the camp, where they're largely not allowed to seek gainful employment or higher education, and where their mobility is tightly controlled. Because most of them are stateless and options for formal resettlement are rare, many turn to smugglers to take them across the Andaman Sea to countries in Southeast Asia.

The number of these departures, often taken on unsafe vessels, has spiked dramatically in recent months, according to the Office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR). Nearly 2,000 people have tried this year to cross the Andaman Sea from Bangladesh or Myanmar — about six times as many as in 2020.

The stranded boat departed Cox's Bazar in late November and was bound for Indonesia — more than 1,000 miles away — where passengers hoped to stay or to head on to Malaysia, where there's a large Rohingya population. But on Dec. 4, the captain of the boat sent out distress signals via a satellite phone — the engine had failed, the captain said, and supplies of food were dwindling.

Aminullah, a Rohingya man in Cox's Bazar who goes by only one name, said his 16-year-old sister is on board the boat. "At this point," he said, "we don't even know if they are alive."

Aid groups and the UNHCR have called on countries in the region, which include India, Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia, to send out rescue missions and allow the boat to disembark. But as of Friday, no assistance had been dispatched.

In a statement Thursday urging regional governments to act, U.N. special rapporteur on Myanmar Tom Andrews noted that "the duty to rescue persons in distress at sea is a fundamental rule of international law, is a norm of customary international law and is incorporated in international treaties."

The boat was originally reported near the Nicobar Islands, potentially in Indian waters, activists said. Priyali Sur, founder of the Azadi Project, a New Delhi-based organization that supports refugees, said she made appeals over recent weeks to India's Maritime Rescue Coordination Center, urging it to send out rescuers. As of Thursday, she said, she had not received any confirmation that it plans to do so.

"The fact is that none of these countries wants to take them," Sur said. "We've seen this again and again with refugee communities."

India's Ministry of Defense, which oversees the Maritime Rescue Coordination Center, and its Ministry of External Affairs did not respond to inquiries Thursday. Officials in Thailand and Malaysia also did not respond to inquires this week about whether they planned to assist the boat.

Eros Shidqy Putra, a member of Indonesia's refugee task force, said officials are still verifying the whereabouts of the stranded boat and whether it has entered Indonesian waters. The country is "very concerned about the fate of the Rohingya refugees," he said, but discussions are still ongoing on how to respond to the situation because "decisions must be made in the right way."

Khan, speaking over the phone from Cox's Bazar, said there isn't time to wait. Casualties have been mounting by the day. Governments need to dispatch rescuers immediately, he said, but they can't stop there.

His sister, a 27-year-old single mother, had been struggling in the refugee camp for years, Khan said. She was frequently stricken with illness and couldn't find steady work to provide for her two children. She had hoped to find a better life in Malaysia and a better future for her youngest daughter, who is 5.

"If we have nationality, if we have passports, we wouldn't die at sea," Khan said, choking back tears.

"We've already suffered a lot," he continued. "Enough is enough."

LEWIS JOLY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Members of the Kurdish community stand next to a burning barricade as they clash with police at the scene of the shooting.

Gunman targeting 'foreigners' kills 3, wounds 3 in Paris

Kurdish protesters say French government failed to protect them

BY RICK NOACK

Three people were killed and at least three wounded in a shooting in central Paris on Friday, according to France's interior minister, who said the assailant "clearly wanted to attack foreigners" and probably acted alone.

The shooting in Paris's 10th arrondissement, a busy and multicultural part of the French capital, targeted a Kurdish community center, a nearby restaurant and a hair salon. Mourners and Kurdish protesters gathered in the area Friday evening.

"We saw an old white man enter, then start shooting," a witness told Agence France-Presse.

Officials described the suspect, who was being treated for face injuries after his arrest Friday, as a 69-year-old French citizen who had previously been charged with racially motivated violence in a sword attack on a tent encampment housing migrants. He was released from prison two weeks ago, and is now being investigated for "assassination," "attempted assassination" and "intentional violence with weapons."

Prosecutor Laure Beccuau told reporters she saw no reason to have counterterrorism prosecutors take over the investigation, a move called for by some left-wing politicians. Attacks similar in scope carried out by Islamist extremists have been investigated as terrorist attacks.

"The Kurds of France have been the target of a heinous attack in the heart of Paris," French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted Friday evening. "Thoughts to the victims, to the people who are fighting to survive, to their families and loved ones."

Earlier in the day, Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin had cautioned that it was too early to conclude that the attacker deliberately targeted Kurds, as opposed to foreigners in general.

Speaking near the scene of the shooting, Darmanin said the suspect was not known to have been an active member of right-wing extremist groups. He was known to practice at shooting ranges.

One of the three people wounded in Friday's shooting is in critical condition, Darmanin said.

Local officials urged residents to stay away from the area of the attack. But by Friday afternoon local time, large crowds had assembled in nearby streets to mourn the victims. Skirmishes broke out between police officers and members of the Kurdish community, who shouted slogans decrying the Turkish government and blaming French officials for having failed to protect them.

During his visit, Darmanin said Kurdish organizations and Turkish diplomatic premises would receive additional police protection.

Kurdish organizations called for a large demonstration in Paris on Saturday.

Friday's shooting comes almost 10 years after three female Kurdish activists were killed in a shooting at a different community center in Paris. Many members of the Kurdish community in the city have long suspected that Turkish intelligence services were behind that attack.

"Kurds, wherever they reside, must be able to live in peace and security," said Paris Mayor Anne Hidalgo, adding that "more than ever, Paris is by their side in these dark times."

TERESA SUAREZ/EPA-EFE/SHUTTERSTOCK

Residents and others gather after the shooting on Rue d'Enghien that targeted a Kurdish community center, a nearby restaurant and a hair salon. Officials described the suspect as a 69-year-old French citizen who had previously been charged with racially motivated violence.

Fuel costs are still rising in Jordan, and people want to know why

BY SARAH DADOUCH

BEIRUT — A rise in fuel prices in Jordan has set off nationwide demonstrations, snarling traffic and supply chains and threatening the stability of a U.S. ally that has struggled to insulate itself from the global economic downturn.

Organized by truckers, the "dignity protests" turned violent in one part of the impoverished south last week, allowing the government to cast the unrest as a security issue instead of a failure of policy in addressing long-term economic challenges that predate the coronavirus pandemic.

Police were deployed last week to "calm down riots" in Ma'an, and underdeveloped province in the southeast, according to the state-run news agency Petra. The province's deputy police chief was then shot in the head by people the police described as "saboteurs."

The government's reaction was swift: Authorities vowed to "strike with an iron fist" any such attacks. The next day, they announced a temporary ban on TikTok, popular for sharing videos of protests. Jordan's cybercrime unit said it was tracking instances of "hate speech, incitement to vandalize and attack law enforcement cadres and property, and blocking roads" on the social media app.

In a show of support, King Abdullah II's son and heir, Crown Prince Hussein, attended the fallen deputy police chief's funeral. Activists say Ma'an remains under an internet blackout.

Notably absent from the government's response has been a mention of the reasons, frustrations and anger driving the protests. Citizens watched the security apparatus crack down without receiving any reassurance that officials are addressing the economic pain that's plaguing the country.

Three police officers were shot dead Monday during a raid targeting the alleged hideout of the men suspected of killing the deputy police chief. The Public Security Directorate said one suspect was killed and nine others arrested. Authorities said they all belonged to what they called a "terrorist cell" that follows "Takfiri ideology" — an extremist form of Islam whose adherents view more moderate Muslims as infidels.

The reaction follows a pattern of which Jordanians have grown weary: The government addresses security concerns with an urgency that's not granted to other crises felt by the public. In the absence of official statements on the protesters and their demands, the narrative in official media now is largely about the Takfiri element, which "has actually fueled more anger," former foreign minister Marwan Muasher told The Washington Post.

Jordan, like many countries, is suffering rising unemployment, debt, inflation, and food and energy prices. But the country's economic troubles preceded the pandemic and the Russia-Ukraine war; those events have only exacerbated them. The country has long depended on foreign aid from the United States and Saudi Arabia, but as relations with Saudi Arabia have cooled in the past few years, Muasher said, that support has slowed.

Jordan is largely devoid of natural resources. A relatively strong growth rate of 2.2 percent in 2021 did not lead to strong job creation, the World Bank said in July. Unemployment stood at around 23 percent at the end of 2021, up from 19 percent before the pandemic. The World Bank report said the "alarming" levels of unemployment "are mainly due to the limited capacity for the private sector to generate more and better jobs with the economy being dominated by small, low-productivity firms."

Despite years-long calls by economists for Jordan to develop more economic self-reliance, the government still employs an "outdated" system that relies on foreign aid and an emphasis on security services, according to Muasher, vice president for studies at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

"There is a strange resilience to stick to old tools that are no longer sufficient to maintain social peace," he said. "Where is the government?" is a question many Jordanians are posing at a time when the state has been "glaringly absent."

"The status quo is not sustainable," he said.

Some lawmakers have angrily echoed citizens' concerns. One member of parliament, Ismail al-Mashaqbeh, blamed the government for pushing people to the street by hiking prices, asked "to be kind to people's conditions as we are now in winter," and questioned whether the government had studied its decision before making it.

A member of parliament from the south, Eid al-Naimat, said the public was tired of hearing the government say "The [cooking] gas cylinder will not be touched" while officials raise prices related to fuel. He warned that quick measures are needed to avoid further unrest.

Naimat emphasized the need to reduce the tax on fuel derivatives to protect citizens from what he dubbed a "big ghost." Anger at this tax has grown, which another lawmaker said amounted to approximately $1.7 billion last year — totaling 3.7 percent of the country's overall GDP.

"There is also anger over what is seen as a lack of transparency about this tax," Muasher said. "A lot of people are saying gasoline prices have gone down internationally, so why are they going up in Jordan? All these questions may have credible answers, but they're not being put forth by the government."

Despite the TikTok ban, people still found ways to post videos of protesters chanting at the king: "Rest, rest, oh Abdullah, when are you planning to do reforms? You killed us, you corrupt [people]."

Some ridiculed the ban. One young man posted a video saying: "It's okay, I'll just open Facebook. I'll open Instagram." He pointed to his eyeglasses: "These days, even these can go live."

KHALIL MAZRAAWI/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Jordanian bus drivers lift a banner bearing a slogan that reads "dignity" in Arabic on Dec. 16 in Ma'an. "Dignity protests" prompted by increasing fuel prices have been happening across Jordan.

Convicts and conscripts have doubled Russian forces in Ukraine

Over 40,000 prisoners were recruited to fight in divisive fall mobilization

BY MARY ILYUSHINA AND FRANCESCA EBEL

RIGA, LATVIA — Despite heavy combat losses over 10 months of brutal war, Russia now has more than double the number of troops poised to fight in Ukraine as it did when it invaded in February, including thousands of convicts released from prison and conscripts from a controversial mobilization drive this fall.

According to a new U.S. assessment, the Wagner mercenary group, which fights alongside regular Russian troops in Ukraine, in recent months recruited 40,000 prisoners from all over the country into its ranks. Together, with 300,000 new conscripts and 20,000 volunteers, Russia's force is now more than double the 150,000 initially allocated to what President Vladimir Putin termed a "special military operation."

The larger Russian force, even after losing an estimated more than 25,000 killed in action and tens of thousands more wounded, backs up Putin's oft-repeated pledge to press forward until his military objectives in Ukraine are met, even as military experts widely question the level of preparedness and morale among recent recruits.

The new numbers, laid out by U.S. national security spokesman John Kirby at a briefing on Thursday, generally match assessments by rights groups, including Russia Behind Bars, which has said that an unofficial recruitment of Russian prison inmates was conducted separately from "partial mobilization" ordered by Putin late September.

In remarks this week, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said that 300,000 men were mobilized in September and October, and that an additional 20,000 had joined as volunteers.

At the briefing on Thursday, Kirby said that 40,000 of the Wagner group's estimated 50,000 members were convicts. Kirby added that Washington believes at least 900 prisoners have been killed in recent fighting in East Ukraine. He said that Wagner, led by businessman Yevgeniy Prigozhin, appeared to be locked in a power struggle with other structures of the Russian army.

"It's pretty apparent to us that Wagner is emerging as a rival power center to the Russian military and other Russian ministries.

John Kirby, U.S. national security spokesman

"In certain instances, Russian military officials are actually subordinate to Wagner's command," Kirby said. "It's pretty apparent to us that Wagner is emerging as a rival power center to the Russian military and other Russian ministries."

Prigozhin, nicknamed Putin's chef because he made a fortune from Russian government catering contracts, was recorded on video in September personally going to prisons to help recruit convicts to join Wagner, with a preference for those accused of violent crimes.

The press service of Prigozhin's catering company, Concord, at the time commented coyly on the video, saying that it "can confirm that the person in the video bears an enormous resemblance to Yevgeniy Viktorovich."

In recent weeks, Wagner has focused on trying to capture the Ukrainian city of Bakhmut, a push that has set off some of the bloodiest fighting of the war, but so far has not yielded a long-sought victory. This week, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky visited Bakhmut and awarded medals to some of the soldiers involved in the city's defense, highlighting Wagner's failure so far to capture it.

"It seems as though Mr. Prigozhin is willing to just throw Russian bodies into the meat grinder in Bakhmut," Kirby said. "In fact, about 1,000 Wagner fighters have been killed in the fighting in just recent weeks, and we believe that 90 percent of those 1,000 fighters were, in fact, convicts."

Prigozhin prison recruitment effort, which began in late spring or early summer, was a response to an urgent need for reinforcements at a time when Putin was still resisting a mobilization, hoping to shield the Russian population from direct involvement in the war.

Throughout the war, Wagner grew in prominence after early successes in the Luhansk region that stood in contrast to multiple setbacks suffered by Russia's regular forces, prompting state media for the first time to openly praise and lionize the mercenary group. Wagner had long operated in the shadows with the Moscow denying any connection to it.

The U.K. government, meanwhile, believes that Wagner fighters in Ukraine have ballooned from an estimated 1,000 in March 2022 to nearly 20,000, which the U.K. said it assesses to represent 10 percent of Russia's forces on the ground.

Prigozhin and Wagner-linked recruiters have offered prisoners a pardon and freedom, in exchange for six months of fighting. They also receive a monthly salary of about $1,400 sent to the prisoner's relatives, But they are also warned that those who attempt to flee the front line without fighting risk being shot.

Olga Romanova, the director of Russia Behind Bars, said families typically do get paid, albeit irregularly, but there is no legal basis or any guarantees that the fighters will receive what was promised to them. Even their freedom may be legally uncertain, Romanova said.

"The court decisions in case of these recruits are not canceled, they are still registered with the penitentiary service," Romanova said. "Pardons are granted by presidential decree, and this is a very complex process, which has not been amended in any way. So there is neither a pardon nor an amnesty which the parliament has the power to pass."

Romanova also said the inmates' vulnerable position and lack of any legal protection had freed Wagner to engage in extrajudicial executions of ex-convicts who violated the mercenary group's rules.

"They promise they'll shoot them, and they do it, for using drugs and alcohol or for, say, sexual relations," Romanova said. "I would say, these are mass extrajudicial executions."

According to Romanova, the recruited convicts are thrown on the front line, used to clear mines or as infantry, despite often being in poor health and having little to no training, which leads to heavy losses. "Out of the first recruits who took part in the first battles in July, we only know of one survivor . . . that's one in a unit of about a hundred people," she said.

In November, a video emerged on a Wagner-linked Telegram account showing the apparent execution of Yevgeny Nuzhin, a 55-year-old convict who had been serving a 24-year prison sentence for a murder he committed in 1999.

In July, he signed a deal to join Wagner but defected to Ukraine where he gave a series of interviews. In the clip, Nuzhin was seen lying down with his head duct-taped to a brick while an unknown man in fatigues hit him with a sledgehammer.

Prigozhin did not directly take responsibility for Nuzhin's death or acknowledge Wagner's role in it but he called Nuzhin a traitor and said "he did not find happiness in Ukraine, but met unkind, but fair people."

In a speech earlier this week, Putin said that 150,000 mobilized men have already been deployed into the combat zone, while the other half is "located and being trained at military training grounds and constitute a sufficient reserve."

"This is done for rotation as you cannot send thousands of soldiers to the front and keep them there until the end of the war; you have to rotate them out periodically," said Ruslan Leviev, an analyst with the Conflict Intelligence Team, which has been tracking Russian military activities in Ukraine since 2014. "You fight, retreat to the rear, rest, and fight again . . . so the 150,000 are waiting for their turn."

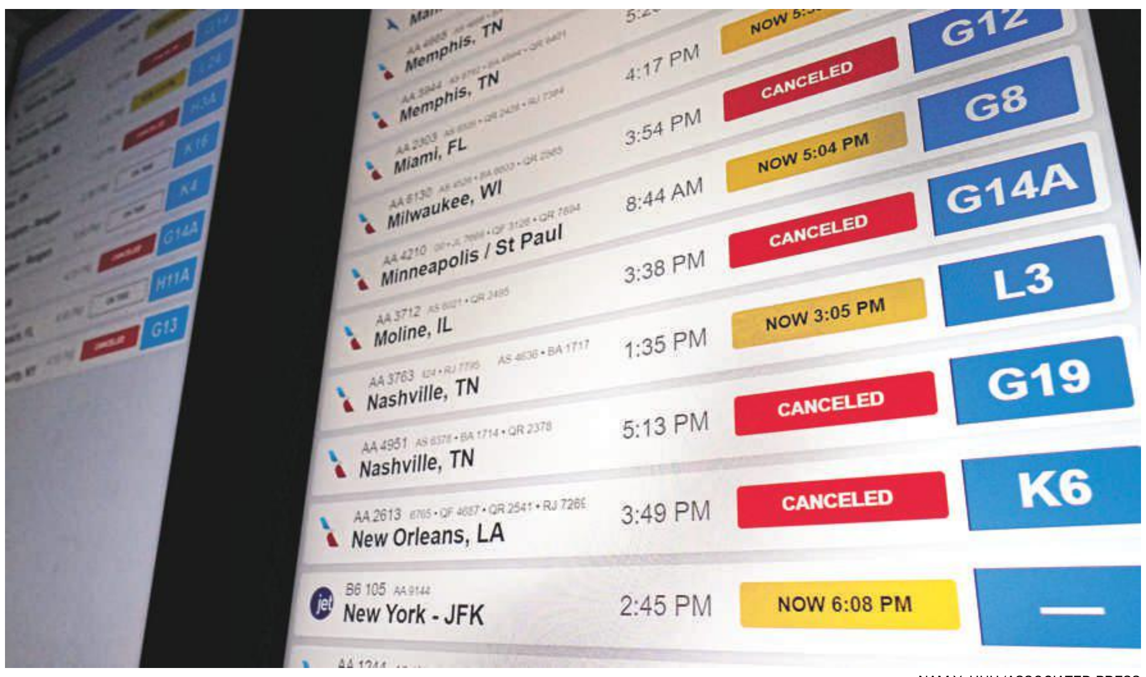
JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Travelers make their way through the terminal at Logan International Airport in Boston on Friday. Disruptions caused by weather over the past three days have complicated the busy travel season, with flight cancellations more than doubling as compared with Wednesday.

Winter storm stomps holiday travel

Flight cancellations exceed 5,000 on Friday, delays continue

BY LUZ LAZO



NAM Y. HUH/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Screens show cancellations and delays at O'Hare International Airport in Chicago on Thursday.

Air travel disruptions continued for a third day Friday with more than 5,000 daily flight cancellations as a massive storm brings heavy snow, ice and severe cold to significant portions of the United States.

The past three days have brought headaches for airlines and passengers: More than 8,000 flights have been canceled since Wednesday, upending travel plans for millions of Americans headed for Christmas getaways. More cancellations and delays are expected Saturday.

The storm has struck during one of the busiest holiday travel seasons in more than two decades, creating dangerous conditions on the ground. Some long-distance and regional rail services have been canceled through Sunday. Bus lines suspended service. State highway officials reported closed freeways and severe crashes.

The number of cancellations more than doubled, compared with those Wednesday, according to the flight tracking website FlightAware. By 4 p.m. Friday, Southwest Airlines had canceled more than 900 flights, more than any other U.S. airline. American Airlines canceled about 350 and United Airlines and Delta Air Lines canceled about 290 each.

Most of the affected flights had destinations or departures in the Midwest and Northeast, including at the Washington region's three airports. About 25 percent of flights into and out of Reagan National Airport were canceled Friday.

In Seattle, runways closed at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport for several hours early Friday while crews worked to de-ice surfaces, and resumed with limited operations. Nearly 50 percent of the flights to and from the airport were canceled on Friday as western Washington state remained under a storm warning.

The Federal Aviation Administration on Friday cited forecasts of gusting wind, blowing snow and severe cold hampering operations at airports from Seattle to Chicago to Boston. On the East Coast, the FAA said, high winds threatened delays from Boston to Charlotte, affecting hubs in New York, Philadelphia and Washington. FlightAware cited more than 8,600 delays nationwide.

Amtrak and the intercity bus carriers Greyhound and Coach USA also have suspended some trips through Sunday. Amtrak canceled some trains to and from Vermont on Friday as conditions deteriorated in the Northeast. The railroad earlier this week suspended some train service through Sunday on multiple Midwest and cross-country routes.

Service is canceled on long-distance routes that originate or end in Chicago, including the Empire Builder, the Cardinal, the Capitol Limited, the Southwest Chief and the Lake Shore Limited. Amtrak asked passengers to check the status of their trains before heading to the stations. The passenger rail agency said that those affected would be able to rebook and change and that cancellation fees would be waived.

Roads became treacherous in many places. At least 10 traffic fatalities across four states this week have been linked to the massive storm. One person was killed and multiple others were injured in a 50-vehicle pileup Friday afternoon on the Ohio Turnpike, according to Ohio State Highway Patrol. On Friday, traffic had also slowed to a crawl on roadways from Chicago to Nashville to Pittsburgh.

The National Weather Service warned that Arctic air and dangerous wind chill would continue for most of the eastern two-thirds of the country into the holiday weekend.

"This system will have increasingly widespread impacts to travel going into the busy holiday travel time late this week, along with the potential for power outages from the expected high winds, heavy snows, significant icing and overall increased power consumption in places," the agency said.

The storm is the latest trouble for an airline industry that endured a summer marked by widespread cancellations that drew the attention of lawmakers and regulators. Airlines also spent last Christmas and New Year's season recovering from several thousand canceled flights amid heavy snow and staffing shortages fueled by the omicron variant of the coronavirus. By this fall, carriers had mostly recovered and in recent months had signaled enthusiasm about their business.

More than 112 million people were expected to travel 50 or more miles from home between Dec. 23 and Jan. 2, according to AAA. Most of them — nearly 102 million — would drive, AAA said. More than 7 million would be flying, while several million more would take trains or use other modes of transportation. According to AAA, 2022 is shaping up to be the third-busiest year for U.S. holiday travel since it began tracking the numbers in 2000.

JOSEPH PREZIOSO/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Most flights affected Friday had destinations or departures in the Midwest and Northeast, with cancellations and delays expected to continue Saturday. On the ground, some rail services have been canceled through Sunday, and some bus lines have suspended service.

ROBERT F. BUKATY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Visitors are splashed with sea spray while photographing the Portland Head Light lighthouse during the winter storm on Friday in Cape Elizabeth, Maine.

Winter storm imperils swaths of U.S. ahead of Christmas

STORM FROM **A1**

kitchen sink," New York Gov. Kathy Hochul (D) said at a Friday news conference. "We've had ice, flooding, snow, freezing temperatures and everything that mother nature could wallop at us this weekend."

Travelers nationwide who defied suggestions to stay home were forced to plow through logistical nightmares. Airlines in the United States canceled or delayed thousands of flights Friday, adding to earlier disruptions ahead of the year's busiest time for family gatherings. Train and bus systems shut down. Road closures stretched for hundreds of miles. Highway traffic froze to a standstill.

Authorities tallied at least nine deaths on the road as the storm moved through the country — the Kansas Highway Patrol and Oklahoma Highway Patrol each reported three deaths from storm-related crashes; Kentucky reported two traffic deaths; Ohio reported one.

Chey Eisenman, who runs a car service in Minneapolis, said drivers were struggling on the slick pavement.

"They barely get the cars pulled out of the ditch, and there's more cars in the ditch," she said. "I think people are just frazzled trying to take their loved ones to the airport, and maybe some inexperienced Uber drivers."

More than 200 million Americans were under alerts for potentially hazardous weather in their area, the National Weather Service said, amounting to "one of the greatest extents of winter weather warnings and advisories ever." Atlanta, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and Tallahassee, were all expected to set records, respectively, for their coldest Christmas Eves.

Defying its adage to power through any conditions, the U.S. Postal Service said the storm had forced dozens of post offices to close, and both Amazon and FedEx also warned of package delays interrupting the frenzied pre-Christmas rush.

Throughout the frozen zone, public libraries and police stations opened their doors to those seeking warmth, and charities focused on helping vulnerable people kicked into high-gear. Lisa Freeman, executive director of Compass House, a homeless shelter in Buffalo, said outreach teams had to act quickly to avoid suffering or deaths. As the storm rolled in, volunteers scoured areas where people were known to sleep in tents or piles of blankets

"You walk and try to find people," Freeman said. "Then you go back to your car and warm up. It's crazy and cold and you just have to try to manage."

By midafternoon, authorities in the area had imposed a travel ban. "This is why," one Buffalo weather account tweeted, embedding a video of blinding whiteout conditions on the road. Winds peaked at 71 mph. Visibility remained less than one-quarter mile on Friday and, at times, dropped to zero.

Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown delivered an afternoon update on the dire conditions from his darkened home after he and thousands of other residents lost power as the storm dumped what is expected to total as much as four feet of snow on the lakefront city. As of 5 p.m., when the temperature stood at a frigid 7 degrees, the city's electricity provider, National Grid, was estimating that as many as 20,000 customers were without power.

Even the city's two warming centers were without electricity but conditions were too dangerous, the utility provider said, for its crews to work to restore it.

"If you lose power in your home, probably the safest thing right now is to shelter at home as opposed to going out and trying to find a shelter," Brown said. The city instituted a driving ban on Friday because of "whiteout conditions" across the region, but the mayor said stranded drivers who ignored the ban were "clogging up the 911 system" and that their calls were not being considered "high priority calls at this time."

"I didn't think it would be this bad," said Jaeger Martino, a 23-year-old college student from Niagara Falls who said he left his home to try to move his car to keep it from getting stuck in the snow. "But when I got in my car, my windshield was frozen and it was just a complete whiteout, you couldn't see anything ahead of you."

In Colorado, ice and snow coated roads. Airlines canceled 647 flights out of Denver International Airport in 24 hours. The Coliseum, home of the National Western Stock Show every January, became a warming center for hundreds of people who lacked shelter.

In Michigan, the wind was blowing too hard Friday for anyone to fix the power cuts that affected thousands, utility officials said, but hundreds of field workers were prepared to keep at the problem through Christmas Day. The number of power outages reported by DTE Energy had almost tripled by the evening to 8,000 in greater Detroit.

For children upset about missing the Detroit Zoo's annual light show — yet another extreme weather casualty — one source of cheer was still working: the live cams trained on sea otters and penguins. (The aquatic birds continued to waddle around as usual.)

In St. Paul, Minn., not all holiday joy was lost to the freezing weather. Audiences pushed through the subzero chill to see the Trans-Siberian Orchestra, a music group with a huge fan base in the Twin Cities.

> *"We've had ice, flooding, snow, freezing temperatures and everything that mother nature could wallop at us this weekend."*
>
> **Kathy Hochul,** governor of New York, speaking at a Friday news conference

Inside the Xcel Energy Center, Ellise Lamb said she wouldn't let black ice stop her from attending the show. However, on her way in, she spotted car parts all over Interstate 494.

"You could see where they slid," she said. "The parts just went on and on." Her survival mantra, she added: "You just go slow. We know how to do this."

In Philadelphia, another city accustomed to punishing weather, Laamia Hussain, a 25-year-old analyst, was carrying her groceries home Friday when she realized the power had gone out in her building. That meant she had to hoist the bags up six flights of steps.

"I was not expecting that workout," she said. She'd wanted to stock up on essentials before the winter weather grew too daunting.

Now she is unsure when the power will return. Outside her window, she sees streets covered with snow. "There's crazy wind, too," she said. "My windows keep creaking."

Luckily, thanks to a friend's warning, she'd charged her devices leading up to the blackout. As for herself, Hussain said she kept her coat on and buried herself under blankets. If the lights didn't come back on soon, she planned to trek over to the home of a friend who still had electricity.

Matt Brown, a 31-year-old Spanish teacher in Manhattan, said he was hoping to reach Chicago on Christmas Eve. But his Saturday flight is uncertain.

"But it's looking like ... yeah. I don't know," he said with a sigh. "I'm glad I got insurance for it."

Eating his mother's cooking on Christmas with the television set to a Hallmark movie was the goal. If he had to stay in New York, though, maybe he'd bundle up and take himself out to dinner. At least his school was able to throw a classroom holiday party for the students — complete with karaoke renditions of "Feliz Navidad."

"It's, like, 50 degrees right now," he said, speaking from the festivities.

"But it's going to go down to 13 later," one of his students chimed in.

"I'll have to mentally prepare," he replied.

On Long Island, floods propelled by storm winds ravaged neighborhoods on the south shore. Video showed a school bus wading through brown water, and part of the Long Island Rail Road temporarily shut down. Communities in the Jersey Shore and on Connecticut's coast also reported flooding.

The expanse of the storm meant that even states far from the northeast were in the target zone. Tennessee's state electric utility briefly ordered rolling blackouts in response to what it called "unprecedented" demand before rescinding the move and pleading with customers to try to save energy. Nashville asked residents to let the sun in through their curtains and "bundle up in a cozy sweater, warm socks or a blanket."

In Des Moines, the subzero chill was too cold for ice skating. The downtown rink was forced to close.

"If people are outside for more than 10 or 15 minutes, it's just too dangerous," said Ben Page, parks and recreation director.

The city's golf courses, usually a winter haven for sledders, were also noticeably empty.

"I didn't see a soul," he said.

Becca Schell, a 30-year-old biotech worker in Denver, thought the travel torment was over once she landed in Baltimore. She and her fiance were supposed to arrive in Maryland early Thursday afternoon, but their flight was delayed by seven hours.

On Friday, however, after arriving at the house of her fiance's parents, a new issue emerged: The power went out. The temperature in the house dropped to 55 degrees. "We decided then it was time to leave," she said. They were off to her fiance's sister's place nearby.

"We walked outside, and we were not okay within one to two minutes," she said. "If you have any skin exposed, the wind just cuts you."

By sundown, she was relieved to be under a blanket, finally ready to enjoy the holidays. Schell just hoped the lights would stay on.

Felton reported from New York. Amanda Coletta in Toronto, Sheila Regan in Minneapolis, Nikie Johnson in Ankeny, Iowa, Jennifer Oldham in Denver and Scott Dance in Washington contributed to this report

MALIK RAINEY FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

A fallen tree atop a car in Buffalo on Friday. The city saw peak winds of 71 mph, at times had zero visibility and faced temperatures as cold as 7 degrees. Additionally, the city's electricity provider, National Grid, estimated that as many as 20,000 customers were without power.

With no cell service, some are left disconnected in storms

Americans who can't make calls, receive alerts underscore digital divide

BY BRIANNA SACKS

Martha Matlock was checking on a cake in her Keithville, La., home last Tuesday afternoon when the strong, loud *whoosh* of a storm reverberated across her roof, rattling her mobile home. She jerked up, terrified, and quickly thought about her tenants on the next street over — a mother and son. She sprinted to her landline to call them, knowing her cellphone would be useless — because it always is where she lives.

"I couldn't get her. It just kept ringing and ringing," Matlock said of her tenant, Yoshiko Smith, who was home with her 8-year-old. Matlock said she tried the sheriff's office, which hung up because her connection was so poor, Smith's husband on his cell and the sheriff's office again and again. "I couldn't get through because our home phone and cell service wouldn't go through."

The whoosh turned out to be a powerful tornado, one of many that ripped through the South last week, ravaging communities like rural, woodsy Keithville in Caddo Parish near Shreveport. Matlock, a retired 69-year-old, said she and her husband did not get any emergency alerts on their cellphones and "had absolutely no clue that it was coming."

Matlock's frantic attempts to reach her tenants and authorities during the violent storm and her lack of alerts underscore the dangers that people in neighborhoods with little to no cellphone service face as severe storms approach, especially in rural areas. The lack of connectivity has become particularly risky as climate change has made weather more volatile. The National Weather Service has already sent out 62 cellphone emergency alerts to Louisiana residents about tornadoes this year — the highest number in a decade, compared with 10 at this time last year.

While America's digital divide has been improving, large chunks of the country, especially rural and tribal lands, are still lagging behind in connection, according to research and experts, and that significantly hampers their access to vital, potentially lifesaving information. Without cell towers, urgent emergency alerts can't get to phones and it is more difficult for residents to warn one another of danger or contact authorities.

About 25 million homes and small businesses nationwide are unserved or underserved, according to CostQuest, a broadband consulting firm that is working with the government on a new access map. Other experts say that number is probably much higher since it's difficult to track exactly how many Americans have inadequate service. The coronavirus pandemic exacerbated connectivity problems in more densely populated neighborhoods with lower incomes, with more demand for data greatly overloading already aged infrastructure and poor service. It also led to more people moving to and working from home in areas where carriers have not upgraded or invested for a long time, experts said.

"This is a widespread issue across the U.S.," said Rob Dale, a public alert and warning expert and the deputy emergency manager for Ingham County, Mich. "These areas, where cellphone coverage isn't there or reliable, tend to be left out of our easiest, most reliable alert system. Emergency managers have no way of enhancing what is not there."

HENRIETTA WILDSMITH FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

James and Martha Matlock seen in Keithville, La., where a mobile home they once owned and rented was destroyed after a recent tornado.

In an emergency, the access to and flow of information is paramount. Ample research has found that a "lack of available crisis information or poorly managed information flow" can lead to its own crisis. In 2017, when historic disasters bore down on the United States, the Wireless Infrastructure Association pointed out in a report that "the reality is that lack of robust infrastructure can lead to a significant disparity of available emergency services for rural residents."

Not receiving emergency alerts has been a problem in past disasters. In August, some Northern California residents said they never got a notice that they were in the direct path of a massive wildfire, despite having signed up for them. Some survivors of the 2018 Camp Fire in Paradise, Calif., said they did not get alerts as the fire raced toward the town.

The federal government has been improving tools and expanding funds to try to get emergency messaging to more people. State, local, and tribal officials and authorities can use Wireless Emergency Alerts, known as WEAs, to buzz phones about dangerous weather, missing children and other potentially life-threatening situations. Officials can target a specific area and send a message to any mobile phone, if the carrier agrees to be part of the system, even if service is throttled. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and Federal Communications Commission made upgrades to the system in 2019, allowing messages to be longer and sent in Spanish, fall into more specific categories, be better geo-targeted and include links.

"WEA is the easiest, most reliable system we have," Dale said. "People don't have to sign up for it, you don't need an app. Even with issues, we can still get 90 percent of phones, and there's nothing else that gets that kind of reliability for us."

However, these warnings are essentially useless if the affected area does not have the adequate cellphone tower infrastructure to disseminate them, like Keithville, Dale and other officials said. And since this system is voluntary, emergency managers don't have a lot of power when it comes to fixing cell-dead zones. When people do not receive alerts, Dale said he and others share that information with carriers and "hope they move with it."

JAKE BLEIBERG/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Debris piles up last week in Keithville. An 8-year-old boy and his mother died in the storm. Martha Matlock tried to contact the family, but even calls from her landline had poor connection.

Lost lives

The tornado in Keithville obliterated Smith's trailer, killing her and her son, Nikolus Little. Her husband, Jamie Little, had to show officers where their mobile home once stood in the Pecan Farms neighborhood, Matlock said. The widespread damage was shocking, but Matlock and others said they were not surprised they did not receive alerts about the developing storm and could not get in touch with authorities and people when they absolutely needed to.

Cell service in the town is consistently shoddy, and Pecan Farms is notorious for being a dead zone, residents said. In 2017, one man started a GoFundMe to try to get expensive tornado sirens for Keithville, because of the "spotty cellular and data coverage," but he had no luck. A tornado damaged his home the next month.

To get cell service, Matlock says she has to walk out to a certain spot in the middle of her yard or down the street, or wait until she gets into town. Matlock said she repeatedly asked Verizon to upgrade and bolster infrastructure to help her cell-dead zone, as there were no towers in her area. She said the carrier never got back to her. To try and better her landline connection, she says she has been fighting with AT&T — a battle that, she said, became more urgent last year when a neighbor was having a heart attack and the Matlocks couldn't get an emergency call through.

"Corporate said, 'No, it's too expensive,'" she said. "Now we have lost lives."

AT&T did not respond to questions about Matlock's complaints. The company said that since 2019, it has placed nearly 60 new small cells in Caddo Parish and a macro cell in Keithville. A spokesperson advised customers who are experiencing service interruptions to call the helpline.

Verizon did not respond to questions sent by The Washington Post.

The FCC said it was "looking into any potential issues with the tornado alerts recently sent to Caddo Parish."

A spokesperson with Louisiana's Public Service Commission said it often gets complaints about poor service and "throughout most of the state there are dead spots because cellphone companies don't want to spend the capital since there aren't a lot of folks out there."

Robert Jump, the Caddo Parish director of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness, said in an interview that after surveying the tornado devastation, he had to drive about 20 minutes before he could get anyone on the phone.

Like all emergency managers, Jump said his office uses several layers and methods to warn people about threats, including radios and door-knocking, which are key in rural areas. But not having the access to and reliability of cellphone infrastructure is "a challenge." And Matlock and other residents in Keithville said not only did no one knock on their door, they didn't know a tornado was coming toward them.

"Our connectivity needs to be updated," Jump said. "The notifications were there, but if you don't have cellphone coverage and you signed up for alerts, you would not have gotten them."

Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards (D) brought up the issue at a news conference on Dec. 15 in New Iberia, where an EF2 tornado with up to 135 mph winds injured at least five people, overturned mobile homes and ripped the roof off a hospital. Residents in this community received multiple tornado warnings from the National Weather Service, the main agency responsible for sending out wireless emergency alerts, buzzing their cellphones and instructing them to take cover. But about 3½ hours away, he said, parts of Caddo Parish did not.

"Unfortunately," Edwards said, "it was in a rural area where cellphone coverage is so poor that warning wasn't available for people yesterday. And it may or may not have made a difference. The point I'm trying to make is: Cellphones are not just a matter of convenience for communications, they're actually public safety instruments, as well."

The afternoon of the storm, Matlock said she couldn't reach Jamie Little by phone. Around 6 p.m., Little showed up on the back of a sheriff's four-wheeler, asking if Matlock had seen his wife. It took authorities hours to comb through the downed trees and debris. They found Nikolus's body shortly before 11 p.m. and that of his mother a half-mile away at 3:30 a.m.

Yoshiko was the "love of his life," Little, who declined a request for an interview, wrote on a GoFundMe. His 8-year-old "was bright and charming."

"His death truly put a scar on my heart that won't be healed," the father wrote.

Bolstering service

It's a tough sell to get private companies to spend the time and money to build towers in rural areas, according to reports and experts. The federal government has launched several initiatives to help improve access to reliable service and spur investment. They include working with AT&T to create and expand the First Responder Network Authority, which recently added sites in West Virginia. In 2020, the FCC created the 5G Fund for Rural America, a $9 billion program aimed at bringing the broadband service to underserved areas. President Biden's recent Infrastructure Act is also helping bolster other connectivity programs for residents with lower incomes.

Because millions of households may have difficulty getting an emergency message, officials often rely on a patchwork of federal, public, private, and media systems and methods to disseminate information. But there is no perfect strategy, and there are often holes. In 2020, Caddo Parish switched to a new alerting platform called Everbridge, which enables officials to send messages to residents using landlines, cellphones, emails and other methods. The catch, though, is that people have to sign up for it. On average, Dale said, only about 30 percent of residents sign up for these types of services.

When asked whether she signed up for Everbridge, Matlock said she didn't know what it was, thinking it was a social network.

"I've never been on any kind of social media ever. No Facebook, nothing," she said.

That's where the national WEA system comes in: Emergency officials can get information to an at-risk area no matter what. But some communities are not aware they have access to it. Jump said he recently learned from a fellow emergency management peer that his department could use FEMA's online wireless alerting tool called the Integrated Public Alert & Warning System. IPAWS exists so that the president can alert the public about a critical national security threat, but federal, state, territorial, tribal and local authorities can also tap into this national wireless emergency alert system to send warnings to their specific jurisdictions.

"I thought it was just a federal tool, not for local entities," he said. "Then I learned that all I have to do is submit an application and go through training and they will let me be certified."

When the cold front that spawned the tornadoes approached Louisiana, Jump said he was in the middle of the IPAWS certification process. Once he gets through that, he said, he and his team will be able to ping phones about dangerous events, such as floods — if they have the service.

Living surrounded by tall trees right outside Keithville's city limits, Jess Adams has gotten used to her coverage having a mind of its own. If a storm's coming, the 24-year-old mother of three can count on her phone cutting out. Sometimes her WiFi works, "sometimes it doesn't," she shrugged. And the farther into her community you go, the worse it gets.

Like Matlock, who lives about eight miles away, Adams said she had no idea that the tornado was coming. She found out about the looming danger when her daughter's school called informing families that they were sending children home early because of it. Shocked, she looked up the impending storm on a radar app.

When her children got home, the family walked out on their front porch and saw a dark funnel twirling above the trees. In the whirl, they thought they spotted a cat but realized it "was actually the attic insulation and shingles from someone's house."

It was a terrifying and mesmerizing image, she said.

But she didn't even bother pulling out her phone. She knew she wouldn't have service.

Scientists say Arctic warming could be to blame for blasts of extreme cold

BY SCOTT DANCE

The data is clear: Rising global temperatures mean winters are getting milder, on average, and the sort of record-setting cold that spanned the country Friday is becoming rarer. But at the same time, global warming may be altering atmospheric patterns and pushing harsh outbreaks of polar air to normally moderate climates, according to scientists who are actively debating the link.

Drastic changes in the Arctic, which is warming faster than anywhere else on Earth, are at the center of the discussion. Shifts in Arctic ice and snow cover are triggering atmospheric patterns that allow polar air to spread southward more often, according to recent research.

"We've seen the same situation basically the last three years in a row," said Jennifer Francis, senior scientist at the Woodwell Climate Research Center in Massachusetts. "Here we go again."

But understanding any link between planetary warming and extreme cold remains a work in progress. Many climate scientists still emphasize that even if frigid air escapes the Arctic more often, that air will nonetheless become milder over time.

The debate started with a research paper Francis co-authored in 2012. It gets revived whenever an extreme-cold event creates headlines, such as in 2021, when Texas's energy grid was overwhelmed by a storm that killed 246 people.

Francis's research hypothesized that Arctic warming was reducing the contrast between polar and tropical temperatures, weakening the jet stream, a band of strong winds in the upper atmosphere that helps guide weather patterns. A weaker jet stream would allow weather systems to more easily swing from the Arctic down into mid-latitude regions that typically have temperate climates.

Since then, observations of jet stream patterns have not confirmed the hypothesis, said Daniel Swain, a climate scientist at UCLA. But the research inspired a flurry of follow-up studies that Swain expects will eventually clarify a link between climate change and cold-weather outbreaks.

"We're 10 years into this conversation and there's still a lot of mixed feelings in the scientific community, though there is some tantalizing evidence that there is some 'there' there," said Swain, who works at UCLA's Institute of the Environment and Sustainability.

A 2021 study published in the journal Science is one new point of debate. The research explains what author Judah Cohen called "a physical foundation" linking Arctic warming and changes in atmospheric patterns.

It focuses on the polar vortex, an area of low pressure typically parked over the North Pole and surrounded by a band of fast-flowing air. Cohen likens it to a spinning top — when the polar vortex is strong, that band of air spins in a tight circle.

Increasingly often, Cohen found, the polar vortex weakens like a wobbling top. That gives the circulating air a more oblong, extended shape and encourages bursts of Arctic air to spread southward.

While the polar vortex took on that stretched shape for about 10 days a year in 1980, in recent years, it has been occurring more than twice as often, said Cohen, director of seasonal forecasting at Atmospheric and Environmental Research.

The research links that to changes in the climate around the Arctic: In the Barents and Kara seas north of Russia and Scandinavia, the waters have warmed and ice has melted, whereas in Siberia, there's been a cooling trend from increases in snowfall induced by climate change.

Some scientists say that a longer and more thorough record of data is needed to back up Cohen's research and that there isn't enough evidence to blame Arctic warming for cold outbreaks at lower latitudes.

Swain predicted that scientists will make sense of the atmospheric dynamics but that it could take years.

"It's one of the most complicated topics in climate science," Swain said.

In the meantime, researchers are confident that cold extremes will follow larger global trends and gradually get warmer, though they still will have significant impacts on places unaccustomed to the cold.

"We're going to break a lot of records this week, for sure," Francis said. "The likelihood of breaking cold records is decreasing, and we see that in the data."

And Cohen said data suggests that relief from the cold across the United States is near: Weather models agree that the polar vortex is going to snap back from its oblong shape by early January, trapping the most frigid air around the North Pole once again.

ECONOMY & BUSINESS

DOW 33,203.93 176.44, 0.5% | NASDAQ 10,497.86 21.74, 0.2% | S&P 500 3,844.82 22.43, 0.6% | GOLD $1,804.20 $8.90, 0.5% | CRUDE OIL $79.56 $2.07, 2.7% | 10-YEAR TREASURY YIELD 3.75% UP 1.9% | CURRENCIES $1= 132.85 YEN, 0.94 EUROS

PHOTOS BY JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

SpaceX's next-generation Starship spacecraft at its launch facility in South Texas in February. The company is now NASA's No. 2 contractor, pulling in more money from the space agency than Boeing and Lockheed Martin. It flies NASA's astronauts to the International Space Station and is developing the spacecraft that is to land people on the moon.

Musk and Starship take center stage in NASA's moon landing ambitions

The space agency's administrator sought reassurance that Twitter takeover wouldn't affect mission

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT

NASA Administrator Bill Nelson was leaving the Kennedy Center Honors this month when he ran into Gwynne Shotwell, the president and chief operating officer at SpaceX, Elon Musk's space venture.

The company is now NASA's No. 2 contractor, pulling in more money from the space agency than Boeing and Lockheed Martin. It flies NASA's astronauts to the International Space Station and is developing the spacecraft that is to land people on the moon. But Nelson was growing concerned that Musk, SpaceX's founder and CEO, was getting embroiled in his purchase of Twitter and losing focus.

"Tell me that I don't have to worry about the distraction at Twitter," he said to Shotwell as they walked into the garage at the awards ceremony together.

"I assure you — you don't have anything to worry about," Nelson, in an interview with The Washington Post, recalled Shotwell replying.

That exchange eased Nelson's concern about Musk and his stewardship of SpaceX — at least for now. But with the completion earlier this month of its Artemis I mission — a flight of NASA's Orion capsule around the moon without astronauts on board — the space agency will increasingly be looking to SpaceX to help it achieve its goal of returning humans to the surface of the moon.

Last year, NASA made a big bet on Musk's company, awarding it a nearly $3 billion contract to use its next-generation Starship spacecraft to land astronauts on the lunar surface by 2025. Since then, SpaceX has won another contract, worth $1.5 billion, for a second lunar landing.

The company has been running an intense testing program at its private launch and manufacturing facility in South Texas, moving quickly to get what would be the biggest and most powerful rocket ever flown up and running. The company is already building a launch tower for it at the Kennedy Space Center, where it launches its Falcon 9 rockets and Dragon spacecraft.

While Musk has been at Twitter, SpaceX has kept up its fast pace, completing three launches in 34 hours last week, including one that was the 15th flight of its reusable Falcon 9 booster, a record.

All of which has turned Nelson, once a SpaceX skeptic, into a believer.

"Remember what everybody said? SpaceX was pie in the sky," Nelson, a former senator from Florida, said in the interview. "As we say in the South, the proof's in the pudding."

Gesturing to a model rocket on display in his office, he added: "And look what they've done with that one right there, the Falcon 9."

Still, Musk's foray into social media and the way it has consumed his time has worried Nelson, other leaders at NASA and the space community as a whole.

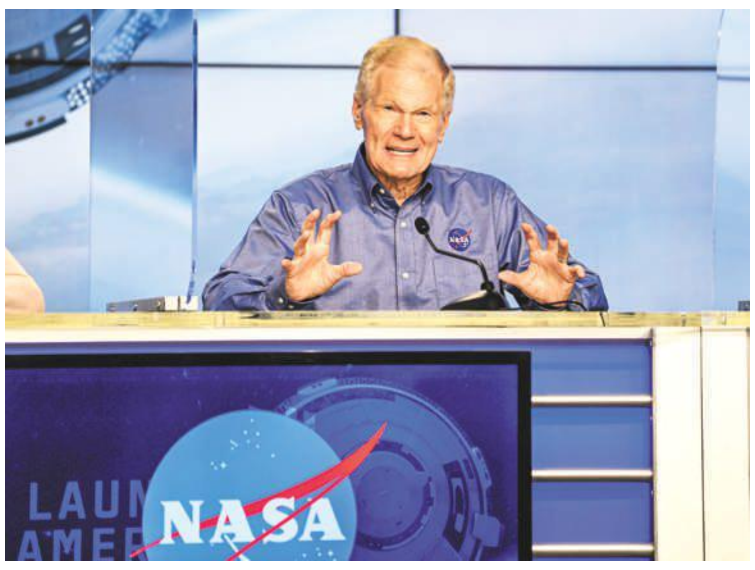
When pressed about what Musk's takeover of Twitter might mean for NASA, Nelson said: "I have a great deal of faith in Gwynne Shotwell. And I also have faith that Elon trusts Gwynne and has turned the reins of SpaceX over to Gwynne."

When it comes to SpaceX's day-to-day operations, that has been true for some time. But SpaceX is still very much Musk's company; he's not only the chief executive but also the chief engineer. He sets the vision and the ethos for its more than 10,000 employees. And Starship, a fully reusable spacecraft that he wants to use to get people to the moon and Mars, has been the project that has consumed most of his time and energy at SpaceX.

Concerned about its progress, Musk last year wrote an email to SpaceX employees lamenting how long it was taking to ramp up production of the next-generation Raptor engine that powers Starship. "The Raptor production crisis is much worse than it seemed a few weeks ago," he wrote. He said the company faced a "genuine risk of bankruptcy if we cannot achieve a Starship flight rate of at least once every two weeks next year."

The email was largely seen as a way for Musk to motivate his team to work faster. But Starship still hasn't flown this year, let alone at such a fast cadence. The company is now looking to fly sometime in the first part of next year.

But it's still not clear when. This year, the company won preliminary approval from the Federal Aviation Administration to fly the vehicle to orbit, but that approval came with a list of more than 75 actions the company must complete that are designed to protect the environment and reduce the impact of SpaceX's activities on a nearby public beach and wildlife preserve.



NASA Administrator Bill Nelson, seen in July 2021, said he is constantly asking for updates on SpaceX's progress in developing a spacecraft to return humans to the moon by 2025.

The FAA said last week in a statement to The Post that the time frame to complete those milestones varies. "Some measures must be completed prior to launch, while others are designed to occur during post-launch activities or following a major mishap," the statement said. "The FAA will ensure SpaceX complies with all required mitigations."

It did not say when SpaceX might launch. SpaceX declined to comment for this article.

Earlier in the development program, SpaceX sent Starship prototypes several miles into the air, where they hovered and then descended toward their landing pad. Several crashed and blew up. But after a few attempts, the teams figured it out and landed the spacecraft safely. Since then, the company has been focused on building the launch tower, complete with a pair of arms that would catch the booster as it descends, and getting the whole vehicle ready for an orbital launch attempt. In recent months, it has conducted engine tests, including one last week.

Pam Melroy, NASA's deputy administrator, said at a recent event that the company is making progress. But she didn't offer a timeline for when the orbital launch attempt might come.

"They've got the design ready to go. Do some serious hardware testing and they're beyond the we're-going-to-probably-blow-up-the-pad phase," she said.

As a former acting deputy associate administrator at the FAA, she said she knows "how hard it is to develop a new location to launch rockets from. . . . It's very challenging to set up a new location, and I think they're just experiencing some of those things."

In the interview, Nelson said he is constantly asking for updates on the company's progress. "And I am continuously told they are on schedule, they are meeting every milestone, and in some cases, they are exceeding their milestones," he said. "And, you know, look at SpaceX's history. They launch and sometimes they blow up. But in the end, they keep it going."

NASA will need them to. After it successfully flew the Artemis I mission, it's looking toward Artemis II, which would send a crew of astronauts in the Orion spacecraft to orbit around the moon, perhaps by 2024. Then for the lunar landing attempt, Starship would meet up with Orion in lunar orbit, ferry the astronauts to the surface and back to Orion again, which would take them home.

That's scheduled for 2025 — an ambitious, perhaps quixotic timeline, considering Starship has yet to fly to Earth orbit, let alone to the moon. The mission is also complicated by the fact that SpaceX would have to refuel Starship in Earth orbit with several tankers before it could fly to the moon.

Nelson conceded that there is a good chance the mission could slip to 2026, especially since the space agency has to get its new spacesuits ready and pull off a successful Artemis II mission as well.

"There's a lot riding on it," he said. "SpaceX has to be ready."

DIGEST

ECONOMY

U.S. inflation cools, spending stalls

The Federal Reserve's preferred inflation measures eased in November while consumer spending stagnated, suggesting the central bank's interest rate hikes are helping to cool both price pressures and broader demand — with more tightening on the way.

The personal consumption expenditures price index excluding food and energy, which Fed Chair Jerome H. Powell has stressed is a more accurate measure of where inflation is heading, rose 0.2 percent in November from a month earlier, Commerce Department data showed Friday. That matched estimates, but data for the prior month were revised higher.

From a year earlier, the gauge was up 4.7 percent, a step down from a 5 percent gain in October. The overall PCE price index increased 0.1 percent and was up 5.5 percent from a year ago, the lowest since October 2021 but still well above the central bank's 2 percent goal.

Personal spending, adjusted for changes in prices, stalled in November, the weakest since July and below forecast. An increase in services spending, led by restaurants and accommodation, offset a decline in outlays on merchandise. New vehicles were the leading contributor of that decrease.

Like the consumer price index figures released earlier this month, the figures point to a welcome retreat in price pressures and suggest the U.S. has passed peak inflation. While many expect to see a rapid pullback in inflation over the next year, sustained wage increases from a still-tight labor market threaten to keep prices elevated.

Powell emphasized those risks last week when he said the central bank needs "substantially more evidence" to have confidence that inflation is on a sustained downward path.

— Bloomberg News

CRYPTOCURRENCY

Bankman-Fried faces fresh witness worries

Sam Bankman-Fried for weeks seemed to be trying to get ahead of former Alameda Research CEO Caroline Ellison's widely expected cooperation deal with prosecutors, subtly casting blame on her for FTX's collapse.

But when Manhattan U.S. Attorney Damian Williams finally announced Ellison's plea agreement Wednesday night, it came with a brutal stinger for Bankman-Fried: federal prosecutors also had a deal with Gary Wang, his FTX co-founder. Wang was far more integral to FTX than Ellison, making him a more dangerous witness for Bankman-Fried.

Bankman-Fried, 30, is charged with orchestrating a years-long fraud in which he used billions of dollars of FTX customer funds for personal expenses and high-risk bets through Alameda, the cryptocurrency exchange's sister trading house.

Following his first U.S. court appearance Thursday after being extradited from the Bahamas, Bankman-Fried was released on a $250 million bond. He hasn't yet entered a plea in the case. A spokesperson for Bankman-Fried didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

In media interviews, Bankman-Fried has tried to suggest he didn't know what was happening at Alameda, which Ellison, 28, ran from Hong Kong while he was in the Bahamas. That casts his role in FTX's collapse as mismanagement rather than fraud. But Wang, 29, who was FTX's chief technology officer and based in the Bahamas with Bankman-Fried, doesn't fit into that picture.

"I expect it will be more difficult for him to claim he had no knowledge of what Wang was up to," said Sarah Paul, a former federal prosecutor in New York.

— Bloomberg News

ALSO IN BUSINESS

Microsoft is headed for a battle with the Federal Trade Commission over whether the U.S. will block the tech giant's planned takeover of video game company Activision Blizzard. Microsoft on Thursday filed a formal response to the FTC lawsuit's declaring the $68.7 billion deal an illegal acquisition that should be stopped. For years, Microsoft has avoided the political backlash that has been directed at its big tech peers Amazon, Google and Meta. But the software giant now appears to be on a collision course with U.S. regulators emboldened by President Biden's push to get tough on anti-competitive behavior. The FTC claims the merger could violate antitrust laws by suppressing competitors.

Macy's workers at a flagship location in San Francisco's Union Square began a two-day strike on Friday, walking out on some of the most crucial holiday shopping days of the year. Macy's said in a statement that "our top priority is to ensure the safety of our colleagues and customers," adding that the store location will remain open. The company didn't comment on how the store will be staffed or whether opening hours will shift.

— From news services

Amid drought, Ariz. debates piping water from Mexico

Proposal from an Israeli company surprises state's water authority

BY JOSHUA PARTLOW

JABIN BOTSFORD/THE WASHINGTON POST

The U.S.-Mexico border barrier in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in 2019. Arizona officials are considering a proposal to build a pipeline from the Sea of Cortez to the state. The pipeline would cut through the monument, which is a UNESCO biosphere reserve.

Arizona's newly expanded water finance board had met only three times. The state authority had no director. Nor had it made a public call for water projects to boost Arizona's dwindling water supplies from the Colorado River.

But earlier this week the board was suddenly facing a vote on whether to support a $5 billion project led by an Israeli company to build a plant to desalinate ocean water in Mexico and pump it 200 miles across the border — and through a national monument — to ease the state's water crisis. Arizona and Mexico have been talking for years about removing salt from water in the Sea of Cortez, but this plan was new to many, and the rush for the state's blessing in the waning days of Republican Gov. Doug Ducey's administration worried some in the state.

"I'm sorry but this reeks of backroom deals," State Sen. Lisa Otondo (D) told the board during its meeting on Tuesday.

The accelerated debate also reflected the urgency of the water crisis facing the American Southwest. With water levels in key reservoirs approaching dangerously low thresholds — as a historic drought extends into its third decade — many officials want to import water into the Colorado River basin from elsewhere.

"The risk here, clearly, in this case, outweighs the rush," Andy Tobin, a member of the water finance board and a former speaker in the Arizona House of Representatives, said during Tuesday's meeting. "We've got folks who are running out of water."

IDE Technologies, an Israel-based company that has built desalination plants around the world, claims it can deliver an oasis of up to 1 million acre-feet of water to the drought-parched state — an amount roughly equal to what central and southern Arizona took from the Colorado River this year.

During its presentation to the Water Infrastructure Finance Authority of Arizona, two representatives from the developer, plus a Goldman Sachs official involved in financing for the project, presented their vision for the largest desalination plant in the world. The representatives said the project would be entirely financed by private money, but they want Arizona to pledge to buy the water at an unspecified future price.

"We need a long-term commitment that when we deliver water to you, you will buy it," said Erez Hoter-Ishay, manager of the Arizona Water Project Solution Team, as the IDE-led consortium is called. "Simple as that."

On Tuesday, the water finance board voted unanimously approve a nonbinding resolution to continue to study the project.

IDE said the plant would be built near Puerto Peñasco, along the Sea of Cortez in the Mexican state of Sonora. The roughly $5 billion first phase would involve building a plant that sucks in seawater and filters it through membranes to remove the salt.

Then it would be pumped through a 200-mile pipeline north, crossing into the United States at the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument, an international biosphere reserve, before following a highway toward Maricopa County, where it could join canals that serve Phoenix and Tucson. The first phase, a single pipeline, could carry about 300,000 acre-feet of water to Arizona and could be operational by 2027, with future pipes supplying up to 1 million acre-feet, the IDE representatives said. An acre-foot equals 326,000 gallons, or enough to cover an acre of land in a foot of water.

Environmental groups have raised concerns that the plant, which would pump brine back into the Sea of Cortez, could damage marine habitat, and the pipeline could disrupt the sensitive desert in the national monument.

Jennifer Martin, a program manager with the Sierra Club in Arizona, told the board that the state should be focused on conserving water, moving away from water-intensive crops such as alfalfa, and reining in rapid growth, rather than shifting the environmental burden onto Mexico and future generations.

"Sierra Club urges you to put the brakes on this expensive, energy-intensive and environmentally harmful proposal now and not to rush it through in the waning days of 2022 and the Ducey administration," she said.

> *"We haven't hired an executive director or staff. To my knowledge we haven't put out any calls for proposals. How did you know to put in a proposal for this agreement before we even set up the infrastructure of the board?"*
>
> **State Rep. Reginald Bolding (D),** during a board meeting Tuesday

Arizona and Mexico for the past several years have been discussing another possible desalination approach — where Arizona would pay for a plant across the border in exchange for taking a portion of Mexico's allotment from the Colorado River, said Sarah Porter, director of Arizona State University's Kyl Center for Water Policy. The cross-border pipeline plan "is a little bit out of left field."

Porter said she's not sure there would be a market for buying such a large quantity of water in Arizona, even with the shortages on the Colorado River.

"We don't need to run out and find another couple hundred thousand or 500,000 acre-feet of water," she said. "It's not at all clear that that level of demand will develop."

During Tuesday's meeting, some board members said they were surprised to be considering such a major infrastructure project after first hearing about it just a few days earlier. The expanded board was created by legislation earlier this year to administer a $1 billion fund for projects to boost the state's water supply. State Rep. Reginald Bolding (D), a nonvoting member of the board, questioned how IDE even knew to present its proposal to the board.

"We haven't hired an executive director or staff. To my knowledge we haven't put out any calls for proposals," he said. "How did you know to put in a proposal for this agreement before we even set up the infrastructure of the board?"

Hoter-Ishay said the company has been meeting with officials in Arizona and Mexico for more than three years to develop the project and wants the state's commitment before starting a federal environmental review.

Earlier this year, Ducey toured an IDE desalination plant during a visit to Israel. State Rep. Russell Bowers, the Republican speaker of Arizona's House of Representatives, told the water board he'd been aware of the project but had signed a nondisclosure agreement, so he couldn't discuss it.

C.J. Karamargin, a spokesman for Ducey, said the governor has been outspoken about the state's water crisis and the urgent need to address it.

"Arizona is facing a water emergency. We are in a dire situation," he said.

Karamargin noted that an IDE desalination plant in Carlsbad, Calif., has been supplying drinking water to residents in San Diego County for years and said the green soccer fields during the World Cup in Qatar came from the same technology.

"It's not only a game-changing amount of water. It's a game-changing approach," he said. "It is very good news indeed that a company that has the track record that IDE apparently has is interested in coming here and taking this on."

The project would need approvals in both the United States and Mexico. The developer submitted a right-of-way application for the water pipeline to the Bureau of Land Management on Wednesday, beginning what promises to be a lengthy environmental review process.

IDE's presentation was vague on the cost of their water. Hoter-Ishay cited some estimates from last year that valued an acre-foot of water at $2,200 to $3,300 but stressed this was "of course subject to engineering." For 300,000 acre-feet of water, that range could mean up to nearly $1 billion per year.

"No one can value the cost of water," Hoter-Ishay said. "When you don't have water, you don't have growth, you don't have life."

THE MARKETS

Monitor your investments at **washingtonpost.com/markets**

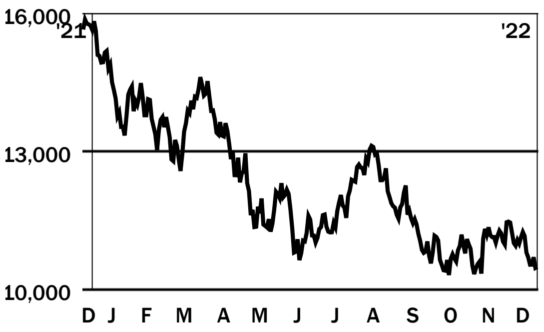
Data and graphics by Bloomberg

DOW JONES

Close **33,203.93**
5D % Change **0.9%**
YTD % Change **-8.6%**

NASDAQ COMPOSITE INDEX

Close **10,497.86**
5D % Change **-1.9%**
YTD % Change **-32.9%**



STANDARD & POOR'S

Close **3,844.82**
5D % Change **-0.2%**
YTD % Change **-19.3%**

Dow Jones 30 Industrials

Company	Close	5D % Chg	Chg % YTD	Company	Close	5D % Chg	Chg % YTD
3M Co	120.14	-1.3	-32.4	J&J	177.48	1.0	3.6
AmerExpCo	147.02	0.5	-10.1	JPMorgan	131.28	1.5	-17.2
Amgen Inc	263.92	-1.3	17.3	McDonald's	267.57	0.5	-0.3
Apple Inc	131.86	-2.0	-25.7	Merck & Co	111.86	2.4	45.7
Boeing	189.06	2.4	-6.1	Microsoft	238.73	-2.4	-29.0
Caterpillr	239.87	3.1	16.0	NIKE Inc	116.25	9.7	-30.2
Chevron	177.40	5.1	51.2	Prcter& Gmbl	152.62	1.4	-6.8
Cisco Sys	47.48	-0.7	-25.1	Salesforce	129.44	0.9	-49.1
Coca-Cola	63.82	1.7	7.7	Travelers Cos I	189.48	3.7	21.0
Dow Inc	50.86	2.1	-10.5	UntdHlthGr	531.31	1.5	5.6
Gldman Schs	345.51	-0.2	-9.8	Verzn Comm	38.41	3.5	-26.2
Hnywll Int	213.87	2.0	2.6	Visa Inc	205.83	-0.5	-5.2
Home Depot	318.73	-1.4	-23.3	Walgreens	38.63	-1.1	-26.0
IBM	141.65	1.1	5.9	Walmart	143.77	0.7	-0.8
Intel Corp	26.09	-3.1	-49.5	Walt Disney	88.01	-2.3	-43.2

COMMODITIES

Futures	Close	5D % Chg	Futures	Close	5D % Chg
Copper	3.81	1.3	Silver	23.92	2.5
Crude Oil	79.56	7.1	Sugar	20.98	4.4
Gold	1804.20	0.2	Soybean	14.85	0.1
Natural Gas	5.08	-23.0	Wheat	7.76	3.0
Orange Juice	2.04	0.0	Corn	6.66	2.0

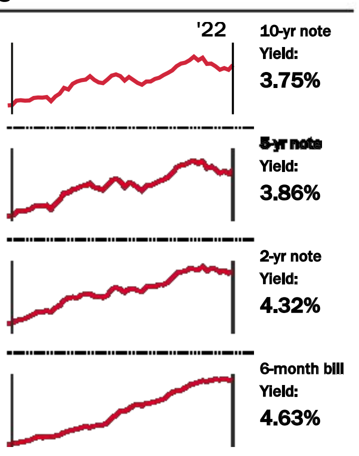
$1000 invested over 1 Year | $1000 invested over 1 Month

$630 — $1375

Exchange-Traded (Ticker)	5D % Chg
Coffee (COFF.L)	4.4
Copper (COPA.L)	1.1
Corn (CORN.L)	2.1
Cotton (COTN.L)	5.0
Crude Oil (CRUD.L)	5.7
Gasoline (UGAS.L)	6.7
Gold (BULL.L)	0.6
Natural Gas (NGAS.L)	-21.9
Silver (SLVR.L)	3.1

RATES

Bank Prime **7.50%**	30-Yr Fixed mtge **6.51%**
Federal Funds **4.50%**	15-Yr Fixed mtge **5.85%**
LIBOR 3-Month **4.72%**	1-Yr ARM **5.51%**



Consumer Rates

Money Market Natl 0.33	5Yr CD Natl 2.76
6Mo CD Natl 1.82	New Car Loan Natl 6.51
1Yr CD Natl 2.34	Home Equity Loan Natl 8.61

Currency Exchange

EU €	Japan ¥	Britain £	Brazil R$	Canada $	Mexico $
0.94	132.84	0.83	5.16	1.36	19.36

INTERNATIONAL STOCK MARKETS

Markets — YTD % Chg

Markets	Close	Weekly % Chg
Americas (-8.1% / +8.1%)		
BRAZIL IBOVESPA INDEX	109697.57	6.7
S&P/TSX COMPOSITE INDEX	19506.65	0.3
S&P/BMV IPC	50578.09	1.9
Europe (-12.4% / +12.4%)		
STXE 600 (EUR) Pr	427.45	0.6
CAC 40 INDEX	6504.90	0.8
DAX INDEX	13940.93	0.3
FTSE 100 INDEX	7473.01	1.9
Asia Pacific (-22.6% / +22.6%)		
S&P/ASX 200 INDEX	7107.69	-0.6
CSI 300 INDEX	3828.22	-3.2
HANG SENG INDEX	19593.06	0.7
NIKKEI 225	26235.25	-4.7

S&P 500 Industry Group Snapshot

Chg % 1Yr: -62.1% — +62.1%

Industry Group	Weekly % Chg
Textiles & Apparel	8.4
Energy Equipment & Svcs	6.7
Oil, Gas, Consumable Fuel	4.2
Media	2.8
Divers Financial Svcs	2.2
Automobiles	-15.7
Semiconductors & Semi Eqp	-4.2
Water Utilities	-2.9
Internet & Catalog Retail	-2.9
Auto Components	-2.1

Gainers and Losers from the S&P 1500 Index

Company	Close	5D % Chg	Company	Close	5D % Chg
Arrowhead Pharma	38.30	20.6	Arcus Biosciences	20.41	-33.9
HCI Group Inc	39.56	19.7	B Riley Financial	31.88	-20.2
Catalyst Pharma	19.01	18.8	Cinemark Inc	8.64	-20.2
AmerEqyInvstLifeHldC	46.00	17.6	Nektar Therapeutics	2.15	-19.2
ATN International	47.59	17.4	Masterbrand Inc	7.58	-18.5
Oceaneering Intl	16.81	16.1	Embecta Corp	27.52	-18.1
Dril-Quip Inc	26.96	16.1	Tesla Inc	123.15	-18.0
Universal Insurance	10.95	14.3	NeoGenomics Inc	9.17	-16.8
MillerKnoll Inc	21.13	14.0	Pennant Group Inc	9.95	-14.6
Helix En Sol Grp	7.08	13.5	Hawaiian Inc	10.11	-13.4
PBF Energy Inc	41.10	12.4	Bed Bath & Beyond	2.58	-13.4
Blucora Inc	25.28	11.9	Viad Corp	24.88	-12.5
Cleveland-Cliffs Inc	16.90	11.7	MP Materials Corp	25.02	-12.5
Phibro Animal Health	13.90	11.7	Sunrun Inc	25.53	-12.4
Caleres Inc	21.76	10.9	8x8 Inc	4.30	-11.9
Nabors Industries	155.95	10.6	SunPower Corp	18.66	-11.8
Insteel Industries	27.03	10.3	Coherus Biosciences	6.45	-11.8
QuinStreet Inc	14.00	10.2	Anywhere Real Estate	6.32	-11.5
NIKE Inc	116.25	9.7	LivePerson Inc	9.58	-11.4
Charter Comm	333.92	9.5	iTeos Therapeutics	18.81	-11.1

Data and graphics by: Bloomberg

Note: Bank prime is from 10 major banks. Federal Funds rate is the market rate, which can vary from the federal target rate. LIBOR is the London Interbank Offered Rate. Consumer rates are from Bankrate. All figures as of 4:30 p.m. New York time.

FREE FOR ALL

Show, don't tell

Regarding the Dec. 14 front-page articles "FTX founder charged with criminal fraud" and "Capitol Hill scrambles for answers — and distance":

I have no vested (or otherwise) interest in cryptocurrency and have no relationship with Sam Bankman-Fried. But I do have concern when The Post tells us what to think about a news item or personality. In both articles, the first line noted that Bankman-Fried is "disgraced." Why not relay what he did and let the reader decide whether he has done something disgraceful or is disgraced?

I've spent four decades working with audio description, the spoken words used to make visual images accessible for people who are blind. We never refer to a person as "angry" (telling our listeners what to think); rather, we note that the person is grimacing, his teeth are clenched, etc. We show the listener what's going on and let the listener decide whether the individual is "angry" within the context of other information.

Perhaps The Post can learn from audio description techniques. Show us what the news is; don't tell us what to think about it.

Joel Snyder, *Takoma Park*

Stop straining to show equivalence

I must take issue with how the Dec. 14 Politics & the Nation article "Biden signs bill to protect same-sex and interracial marriages" characterized the recent congressional votes for the Respect for Marriage Act. It reported that 12 Republican senators (out of 50) and 39 Republican House members (out of 213) voted for the bill and called this "strong bipartisan support." It is not. Simple arithmetic shows that a significant majority of Republican members of Congress opposed this legislation, despite the Gallup survey of 2022 the article cited showing that 55 percent of Republicans supported same-sex marriage. These Republican members of Congress don't represent their own voters, just their own prejudices and the prejudices of those who fund and bolster their primary electoral campaigns.

In the future, The Post should avoid such strained attempts at equivalence. When it comes to issues such as LGBTQ rights, abortion rights, civil rights and voting rights, the two parties are still very far apart, with Democrats in support and Republicans in opposition.

Bob Dardano, *Washington*

A horrific review

The Dec. 2 Weekend review of the movie "Holy Spider" described it as a "serial-killer thriller inspired by the true story" [Also Opening]. Recognizing that I might be ignorant of a technical difference between a thriller and a horror movie, I looked it up. NewDawnFilm.com provided this explanation: "A horror film wants to 'horrify' audiences whereas a thriller film only seeks to 'thrill.' With horror, the focus is on scaring people. They generally know there is a big evil present and the audience act as voyeurs to how these big evil haunts, destroys, or even kills the victims in an inevitable way."

In my mind, the true story of the murder of 16 prostitutes is horrifying, certainly not thrilling. And to have The Post describe such horror as thrilling is, well, disturbing. On behalf of prostitutes, murder victims and the viewing public, I think an apology is in order.

Elizabeth Mumford, *Chevy Chase*

We need puzzles for everyone

My spouse and I are decades-long subscribers to The Post. Only recently have we started doing the puzzles in the Style section. We continued this new tradition in our week in London last month with the Times. I noticed that the Times provided three levels of Sudoku puzzles. Given the need to focus on what is in front of us after being overwhelmed by all the news of the world, we find it helpful to do some puzzles. The problem is that many of us who might just be getting into this good habit can manage only the easy-to-moderate Sudoku puzzles.

I wish The Post would consider providing three levels of puzzles. Perhaps on Sundays to nudge people toward reading the Sunday paper as a family and then puzzling together.

Sabrina S. Fu, *Ellicott City*

Not quite .500

MICHAEL REAVES/GETTY IMAGES

From left, John Carlson and Alex Ovechkin.

The Dec. 10 Sports article "Caps climb above .500 with third win in row" propagated a common misconception about how teams' records are presented in the National Hockey League. The Capitals' record of 13-12-2 represents 13 wins and 14 losses. The losses are broken out into two separate totals because the NHL awards a "standings point" to losses that occur in overtime and in a shootout.

At that point in the season, the Capitals had lost more games than they had won, and therefore were below .500.

Jim Gaarder, *Columbia*

What were their names?

After birth, a scientist is given a name, typically consisting of two or three words. This name is used to distinguish one scientist from other scientists, which is especially helpful at times when a specific scientist has a discovery such that people know who is to be congratulated for said discovery.

The Post, in the Dec. 14 front-page article "U.S. hits key milestone in race to fusion energy," failed to distinguish one scientist from another by generally crediting "scientists" for the achievement.

The article said that "still, it was the first time anyone had managed to create net energy gain" but failed to mention who that "anyone" actually is. There was barely any mention in the article of anyone by name who worked on the project. This lack of specific recognition seems wholly limited to scientists, as if to the outside world scientists resemble a pack of zebras.

Would one report on the moon landing without naming astronauts, elections without naming politicians, or hockey games without naming players? The scientists who have been working on laser fusion for decades, like those who detected gravity waves and those who took a picture of a black hole, are the Buzz Aldrins, Raphael G. Warnocks and Alex Ovechkins of their fields and deserve proper recognition for these achievements.

James Caron, *Silver Spring*

COURTESY OF SONY PICTURES ENTERTAINMENT/COLUMBIA PICTURES

Jesse Brown, played by Jonathan Majors, in "Devotion."

More than a clunky war movie

Mark Jenkins whiffed in his Nov. 25 Weekend movie review of "Devotion," "Stodgy Korean War aviator drama is slow getting up to speed." Apparently, he assumed this was a just another "fighter-pilot drama" and a "clunky old war movie" with "only two major action sequences" that falters in his phantom comparison with "Top Gun: Maverick." "Maverick" is an exciting fighter-pilot drama about a fantasy mission. "Devotion" is a real-life drama about achievement, determination and devotion that includes a real-life mission of "above and beyond" bravery in a real-life, brutal war.

President Harry S. Truman's bold executive order 9981 issued in July 1948 directed the integration of the armed forces. This was a long and "slow-developing" process on both the macro and micro level and receives appropriate investment of movie footage. The achievement and determination required to successfully transition from a sharecropper shack in Mississippi to the ready room of a combat squadron of naval aviators deserve praise; to accomplish that as a Black man in the '40s justly deserves a book and a movie — and a more enlightened review.

But the real-life story continues with the development of a bond between men of different races that rises to the level of devotion (the clue is in the title) and, in this case, legend.

A lesser note, in the penultimate paragraph, Jenkins, perhaps unknowingly, disparaged the intensity of close-air-support missions. It might be a beneficial homework assignment to research the feelings of ground forces and aviators conducting those types of missions.

Jack Cassidy, *Annandale*
The writer is a naval aviator.

Call it what it is

The caption to the photograph that accompanied the Dec. 11 news article "Sending soldiers to war, Russia ignores trauma they bring home" referenced Russia's "military operation" in Ukraine. Just curious whether the caption was submitted by a spokesperson for the Kremlin. In the article, the "war in Ukraine" is appropriately referenced.

Stephen Sherman, *Bethesda*

An ironic display of partisanship

In "Can we still change each other's minds?," his Dec. 11 Book World review of Anand Giridharadas's "The Persuaders: At the Front Lines of the Fight for Hearts, Minds, and Democracy," Nikil Saval provided an exemplar of the polarization and divisiveness that plague the United States, but not in the way he intended:

His long opening paragraph was an exceedingly partisan screed.

That was ironic, because the book review purported to suggest a path toward unity. And if it really was a book review, how about reviewing the book, rather than indulging the reviewer's hyper-partisan political stance?

Collin Agee, *Falls Church*

Ingenuity is part of the puzzle with crosswords

It's getting tiresome to see letters complaining about the Sunday Post crossword ["This one stumped us," Free for All, Dec. 17]. As a paid subscriber to eight crossword outlets and a regular competitor in several East Coast tournaments, I can tell you that Evan Birnholz is revered as one of the top constructors in the business. I marvel weekly at the ingenuity of his puzzles, as do many others within the crossword community.

Yes, crosswords have changed over the years. Meta themes and rebuses are common. References to today's pop culture and modern-day sports stars and actors are what should appear in today's puzzles. People who complain about not knowing the names of rap stars or WNBA players are basically saying, "I want only my era or interests to be reflected in the puzzle." I'm in my late 50s, and I've discovered good music, TV shows and food dishes by seeing them referenced in a crossword. (Pro tip: Unless you're competing in a tournament, it's okay to Google when you're stuck, and learn something new in the process!)

Personally, I'm happy to be past the era of seeing Bobby Orr, Gordie Howe and Della Street in every other puzzle. Oreo references are probably here to stay, but that's a cultural phenomenon that transcends generations.

Props to Birnholz. Solving the Sunday Post puzzle is always a highlight of my week.

Diane Mezzanotte, *Laurel*

Nothing in life is free

Regarding the Dec. 11 Metro article "Free buses save riders money but mixed reliability can temper benefits":

There is no such thing as a free bus ride. The correct term would be "taxpayer-supported" — just like free college, which is also "taxpayer-supported."

Karl Hertag, *Warrenton*

CRAIG HUDSON FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

D.C. Council member Elissa Silverman (I-At Large) in D.C. on March 1.

A reversal after a reversal was in order

After the D.C. Office of Campaign Finance ruled against D.C. Council member Elissa Silverman (I-At Large) in a case stemming from her expenditures on a poll conducted in the Ward 3 primary, the Nov. 1 editorial "Unacceptable" amplified that decision and used it as further ammunition in an effort to unseat her in the Nov. 8 election. "These findings reaffirm our belief that Ms. Silverman is not a good choice for D.C. residents," the editorial said.

Now, after Silverman lost the election, the D.C. Board of Elections has reversed the OCF decision ["Silverman's polling did not break campaign finance law, board rules," Metro, Dec. 13]. But there has been no editorial taking note of the election board's ruling.

If the initial decision in the case warranted an editorial, surely the recent one also did. By failing to acknowledge this reversal, the editorial board of the region's newspaper of record is damaging its credibility on local issues.

Daniel Horner, *Washington*

There was no need for a religious framing

I am a lover of Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol" and Benjamin Dreyer's always thoughtful and beautifully written commentaries on writing and literature. So I was glad that The Post published Dreyer's Dec. 13 Tuesday Opinion commentary, "The joy of reading Dickens proves that God blessed us, every one."

But the headline gratuitously imputed a religious interpretation to Dreyer's piece, which said nothing about God, except to quote the last line as just that — the last line. Dreyer wrote that Dickens's choices of words and ear are what make us come back to "A Christmas Carol" and his other works. I'm a writer, critic and atheist, and the joy one gets from reading Dickens proves he was a great writer, in command of his craft. It has nothing to do with gods of any persuasion, as far as I'm concerned.

Religious people are free to interpret their experience anyway they like. But when I read The Post, I don't want to be evangelized.

Julia Lichtblau, *New York*

LINDA HENRIKSEN/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

Hans Magnus Enzensberger in Copenhagen on Feb. 2, 2010.

Goodbye, and thank you

Any reporter assigned to write the obituary for a polymath literary luminary such as Hans Magnus Enzensberger would be challenged to capture the variety of work he did over 70 years at the center of German literary culture ["A leading author and intellectual of postwar Germany," obituaries, Dec. 13]. In addition to all he wrote, Enzensberger was a great champion of writers who likely would have disappeared without his attention, such as the Jewish German poet and dramatist Nelly Sachs, who was one of the first he carried on his shoulders to Suhrkamp Verlag, the publishing house where he assumed a central role as editor in 1960, thereby introducing Sachs to a wider German audience.

Without his conviction of her importance, Sachs never would have come to such prominence, winning the Nobel Prize in literature (with S.Y. Agnon) in 1966. Enzensberger's legacy includes such insight and acts of grace and should not be forgotten.

Joshua Weiner, *Washington*
The writer is the translator of Nelly Sachs's "Flight and Metamorphosis."

Stringing along readers on concert coverage

That the Emerson String Quartet is disbanding is hardly news ["Emerson String Quartet launches its farewell tour at the Barns at Wolf Trap," Style, Dec. 12]. It has played and been reviewed in D.C. on multiple occasions — with distinction but also, as Michael Andor Brodeur pointed out, with flaws. What, then, is the value-add in a review of the group's concert at the Barns at Wolf Trap, playing Beethoven quartets that most classical music lovers have heard umpteen times on the radio or in person?

Wouldn't it have better served readers — and the cause of contemporary classical music — to have published a review of the spectacular Junction Trio, which performed at the Phillips Collection on Dec. 11? Three young, supremely talented musicians — Conrad Tao, Stefan Jackiw and Jay Campbell — played a thoughtful program of great music by Tao, Charles Ives and Maurice Ravel that was fresh and exciting music to my ears and, I suspect, to many in the sold-out audience.

Sadly, it seems The Post is limiting the number of music reviews it prints, but I hope the editors and Brodeur will make more interesting choices for coverage in the future.

Howard Shapiro, *Bethesda*

Wallowing over the missed 'Wind in the Willows'

The Dec. 14 Wednesday Opinion column "To build a delightful library for kids, start with these books" surprisingly left out Kenneth Grahame's "The Wind in the Willows," and Mole, Ratty, Badger, Mr. Toad "simply messing about in boats" and all their simple, outlandish and daring adventures. Also, the comfort of returning home to "this place which was all his own, these things which were so glad to see him again and could always be counted upon for the same simple welcome."

As a sort of recommendation, in "A Private Spy: The Letters of John le Carré," the editor, Tim Cornwell, a son of the master novelist of the shadowy world of secret agents, writes that at his home, le Carré was not encouraged to read. At age 7, however, while recovering from illness, he was read "The Wind in the Willows," not once, but, at his request, two or three times. "After that," he reported, "I read the book myself and everything seemed to fan out from there." That led to writing "The Spy Who Came in From the Cold," and "Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy," "moles," and all.

Maybe "The Wind in the Willows" should be included in a child's library both for delight and to see what it might inspire now.

Ted Pulliam, *Alexandria*

'I can't stands no more' Popeye

The addition of "Popeye" in the Sunday comics is a poor choice. The strip is not humorous, especially when compared with the "Popeye" strips of the past. The content is dark and very inappropriate. The strip pales in comparison with the other comics. In the Dec. 11 strip, a snowman with pointed teeth was chasing children, threatening to enslave mankind. I do not see the humor, which would be tough to explain to my grandchildren. I hope The Post can and will do better.

Clark J. Kendrick, *Olney*

The Washington Post

AN INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPER

EDITORIAL

JULIO-CESAR CHAVEZ/REUTERS

A copy of the printed final report by the select committee probing the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol, outlining its case against former president Donald Trump.

Recommendations that would preserve democracy

Congress has already passed one of the suggestions by the Jan. 6 committee.

THE OVERAUL of the Electoral Count Act, which the House passed on Friday as part of its end-of-year omnibus spending bill, is a splendid Christmas gift for anyone who cherishes democracy. Hashed out by a bipartisan group led by Sens. Susan Collins (R-Maine) and Joe Manchin III (D-W.Va.), these reforms clarify legislation from 1887 that President Donald Trump tried to abuse on Jan. 6, 2021, so he could cling to power after losing reelection. No wonder, then, that fixing the Electoral Count Act is the first, and most important, of 11 recommendations in the 845-page report that the House select committee investigating Jan. 6 released on Thursday.

The updated law makes clear that the vice president serves a ministerial role at the joint session in which electoral college votes are counted and does not have the authority to reject electors certified by the states, as Mr. Trump pressured Mike Pence to do. The threshold for objecting to a state's electoral votes will increase from one member in each chamber to requiring one-fifth of all members in both the House and Senate. The measure also strikes a provision from an archaic 1845 statute that could have been used by state legislatures to override the popular vote simply by declaring that an election had "failed," a term not defined in the law.

Yet this is only one step the country should take to secure democracy, according to the Jan. 6 committee. Congress should enhance criminal penalties for threats against poll workers, as well as consider amending certain laws, such as the one defining obstruction of an official proceeding, to make it clear that people who participate in acts such as the Capitol riot bear criminal responsibility. The past 18 months revealed the House's limited authority to enforce subpoenas through civil litigation. Both parties should support a bill that would create a cause of action so that the legislative branch could sue to facilitate more timely oversight of the executive branch in the future.

Federal agencies should improve intelligence sharing about violent anti-government groups, just as they did for foreign extremists after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Congress is already conducting more regular and rigorous oversight of the Capitol Police, a need Jan. 6 exposed. And it makes sense to designate joint sessions of Congress in which electoral votes get counted as National Security Special Events, akin to the State of the Union address, which makes extra law enforcement resources available.

The Jan. 6 inquest uncovered significant new evidence that several people who had Mr. Trump's ear urged him to declare martial law and deploy U.S. troops to seize voting machines by invoking the 1807 Insurrection Act. Thankfully, Mr. Trump never pulled this lever. The report recommends Congress "consider risks posed for future elections" by the far-reaching Insurrection Act, though the committee stops short of proposing specific changes. Lawmakers should work on this, but carefully; while the law leaves room for abuse, there are also good reasons not to tie a president's hands in the event of a genuine uprising. President Abraham Lincoln used the act during the Civil War. Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon B. Johnson invoked it to enforce desegregation in the South. President George H.W. Bush last used it, 30 years ago, to stop rioting in Los Angeles.

Not everything the committee recommends will — or should — happen. The committee's most controversial suggestion is for Congress to use Section 3 of the 14th Amendment — enacted after the Civil War — to disqualify anyone who participated in the Jan. 6 insurrection, including Mr. Trump, from ever again holding government office, "whether federal or state, civilian or military." The Senate should have convicted Mr. Trump at his second impeachment trial, barring him from federal office. But banning him from seeking the presidency now could turn him into a martyr and benefit his cause, just as growing numbers of Republicans are showing a willingness to turn the page. There is also no way the next Congress, with a GOP House, would do this.

More politically plausible — yet more concerning — is a Jan. 6 committee recommendation that congressional committees scrutinize "media companies that have had the effect of radicalizing their consumers." This minimizes the agency of those individual citizens who ransacked their Capitol and the president who spurred them. Fox News and other right-wing outlets discredited themselves in the period after the 2020 election, but they now face defamation lawsuits that will hold them to account if they lied flagrantly. Preserving the Republic requires preserving freedom of speech, and intrusive congressional investigations into news operations would burden that sacrosanct value.

These caveats aside, we applaud the committee's dogged pursuit of the truth and its hunger for accountability and needed reform. A fundamental takeaway from the lingering national trauma of Jan. 6, 2021, is that the nation's laws failed to anticipate the unique threat Mr. Trump posed. The Insurrection Act envisioned an enemy within, but not that the threat would be the president himself. The Electoral Count Act was not written to enable a president to pressure his vice president to unilaterally reject electoral votes, yet Mr. Trump did just that.

Two winters ago, the nation's system of government was challenged. One reason it endured is that enough patriots in positions of authority, from the vice president to the acting attorney general, did their duty and upheld their oaths. Those same kinds of people might not be in those jobs next time. To avoid a repeat of that dark day, an attack not only on the temple of democracy but democracy itself, Congress should erect more guardrails — and voters should remain careful about whom they choose to lead.

TAKING EXCEPTION

The World Cup allowed Qatar to enhance worker protections

Regarding the Dec. 18 editorial "An undignified World Cup":

The 2022 Qatar World Cup, which concluded Dec. 18, epitomized what every World Cup should aspire to be: a unique global opportunity to promote unity, discover commonalities, and break down cultural barriers and misperceptions, with soccer as the unifying force.

Qatar is honored to have hosted the first World Cup in the Middle East, helping to represent more than 440 million Arabs in a region that has often been misunderstood and stereotyped. We are proud that more than 1.4 million visitors traveled back to their homes with a better understanding of our culture and a connection to our people. This is perhaps no better demonstrated than by the ghutra, the traditional Qatari headdress, rapidly becoming a global symbol of pride for so many international fans.

We are proud to have successfully delivered an open, inclusive and safe tournament for all. Even some of our staunchest critics admit that the Qatar World Cup has been the safest, most family-friendly and most accessible World Cup yet. Many supporters, especially women and families, have highlighted the enhanced safety and experience provided by alcohol-free stadiums, while our tradition of warm hospitality ensured that all fans were able to enjoy the World Cup, each in their preferred ways.

The dramatic final was a fitting way to bring one of the best-ever World Cups to an end. The presentation of the bisht — a symbol of pride, honor and respect in our culture — by His Highness the Amir to Lionel Messi before he lifted the trophy embodied the tournament's central message of cultural exchange and understanding.

Qatar has always been open to criticisms and new ideas, and acted swiftly to address challenges. On labor standards, we embraced engagement with critics and worked closely with international experts, including the International Labor Organization, to introduce sweeping reforms at a remarkable pace. Progress on the ground has been highlighted through regular, independent ILO reports.

The impact speaks for itself: Salaries of more than 280,000 workers were immediately adjusted to meet the new threshold after Qatar introduced the region's first nondiscriminatory minimum wage in 2021; 420,000 workers switched employers after barriers to changing jobs were removed in 2020; and, beginning in 2015, more than 1.6 million workers are now covered by the Wage Protection System, which ensures wages are paid in full and on time. New mechanisms have been introduced to facilitate better access to justice for workers. This includes the Workers' Support and Insurance Fund, which is effective in providing compensation for workers and their families, reimbursing workers with nearly $320 million this year alone.

Millions of visitors have experienced our country, witnessing our warm, welcoming culture that values the rights of all people, ensures women are respected and embraces diversity of backgrounds. Opportunities to explore new cultures, discover shared values and challenge prejudices should be celebrated as a success for all.

Sheikh Meshal bin Hamad Al-Thani, *Washington*
The writer is Qatar's ambassador to the United States.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

letters@washpost.com

A menorah in every window

The Dec. 19 Metro article "Fear in the Festival of Lights" highlighted the distressing rise in antisemitism in the United States, specifically in Bethesda. It is noteworthy that the story of Hanukkah recounts the oppression of a religious minority and its subsequent resistance to that tyranny.

The article quoted Rabbi Greg Harris of Congregation Beth El thoughtfully suggesting that Jews put Hanukkah menorahs in their windows as a sign of solidarity. I suggest that dealing with antisemitism requires that we, as a society, take this one step further and follow the lead of the people of Billings, Mont. In 1993, after a brick was thrown through the window of a Jewish family where a menorah had been displayed, a response arose, conceived by a non-Jewish friend, that all the people of Billings, of every background and faith, place menorahs in their windows. This act of community solidarity in standing up to hate and bigotry might ultimately be part of the solution. This story is retold in the children's book "The Christmas Menorahs: How a Town Fought Hate," by Janice Cohn. It would be fitting if this book were one of the gifts to appear in everyone's holiday packages this year.

Nechama Liss-Levinson, *Washington*

Hold parents responsible

Regarding the Dec. 19 front-page article "D.C. leaders vexed by rise in juvenile shootings":

The current situation mirrors the state of affairs while I was commanding officer of the D.C. homicide branch during 1988 and 1989, as reported by The Post in "Lives that revolve around death" [Nov. 27, 1988] and "4 more deaths push D.C. homicide rate to more than 1 a day" [Dec. 31, 1988]. City leaders were vexed at that time — and are vexed again now.

I opined to city leaders then that nothing would change until parents were held culpable for the actions of their teenage children. Over the years, a host of community grass-roots organizations has provided educational and mentoring activities for young people, with a veritable plethora of positive results. However, they are now proving to be insufficient. During the era of my command, I would often go to homicide scenes during late evenings and midnights. Bystanders often consisted of young children and teens without the presence of parents, clergy or other responsible adults to counter the notion that the observed aftermath of violence was acceptable.

During my era, illicit drug activity was the causal factor in about 80 percent of homicides. I would suspect that the current wave is directly the result of the callous disregard for life by teens aided by the unprecedented availability of lethal weapons, and from years of learned inappropriate behavior in our society. It is time to hold parents responsible, both criminally and civilly.

Bill Ritchie, *Clinton*
The writer is a former D.C. chief of detectives.

Putting veterans' lives at risk

Veterans across the country experience numerous barriers to health care, and a change being considered by the Department of Veterans Affairs could leave them without access to lifesaving care.

The VA is proposing to cut its reimbursement rate for emergency air medical services, which could put veterans' lives at risk. This change would force air medical bases across the country to close, disproportionately affecting rural veterans, many of whom live hours away from the nearest trauma center and rely on air ambulances for quick transport during medical emergencies.

As a veteran and the chairman of the health administration committee for the largest veteran service organization in the country, I am gravely concerned about what this could mean for the health of the men and women who bravely served our country.

We cannot let our nation's veterans lose access to this lifesaving service. That's why I am calling on the VA to delay making any cuts to its reimbursement rate.

James Stanko, *Steamboat Springs, Colo.*
The writer is chairman of the American Legion's health administration committee.

The same rules for all media

The Dec. 20 editorial "How Twitter's been destroyed, and how it might be saved," urging Twitter (and presumably other similar "social media" sites) to ensure that what's posted is "fair and credible," was whistling in the dark: It's just not going to happen.

All the incentives point in the opposite direction. The more hyperbolic and reckless the "speech," the further it spreads. And the greater the audience, the greater the revenue from advertising the platform reaps.

If Congress were a serious legislative body, it would long ago have repealed the statute that frees social media corporations from the restraints that, despite the First Amendment, newspapers and television stations observe to protect themselves from lawsuits. Magically, social media would take seriously the job of moderating the posted content and tamping down the hate speech they allow.

The Post and other legacy publishers and producers should inform consumers of the steps they take to ensure accuracy. The Post and others should inform the public that social media corporations don't bother with this. Perhaps in time consumers will stop turning to Twitter, Facebook and others to get news — or at least become skeptical about the information they get there. Elon Musk's Twitter rampage is no different, except in the size of the site's audience and the fame of its owner.

George B. Driesen, *Washington*

Exploiting college teachers

Helaine Olen's Thursday Opinion column on Dec. 15, "How progressive can a college be when instructors make poverty wages?," vividly revealed the injustice of the adjunct system. Universities have decided to charge outrageous tuition fees while having courses taught by part-time temporary workers who are paid starvation wages. The collapses of the University of California system and the New School in New York City reveal that grotesquely exploiting the people who do the real work of a college is not a solution.

Unfair labor practices hurt everyone, including the students whose professors cannot afford food or medical care.

Carolyn Betensky, *Kingston, R.I.*
Seth Kahn, *West Chester, Pa.*
Talia Schaffer, *New York*
Rachel Buurma, *Swarthmore, Pa.*
The writers are members of Tenure for the Common Good.

Mr. Trump deserves privacy

Regarding the Dec. 21 front-page article "Panel votes to release Trump's taxes to public":

I never thought I'd write a letter defending former president Donald Trump, but the vote by the House Ways and Means Committee to release his tax returns is a serious breach of his privacy and raises the possibility that our own privacy rights can be violated.

The committee has the right to investigate his tax returns. If it determines that Mr. Trump failed to pay his taxes, then his case should be referred to the Internal Revenue Service for criminal prosecution, where, in open court, his tax returns could be revealed and used to prove the government's case. Until he's criminally charged, Mr. Trump is entitled to the same rights and privileges enjoyed by all American taxpayers.

Paul L. Newman, *Merion Station, Pa.*

The danger of boycotts

Though Philip Kennicott didn't suggest a boycott of Russian culture in his Dec. 18 Critic's Notebook, "Putin's brutality against Ukraine complicates our appreciation of Russian culture" [Arts & Style], he noted a "growing sense that Russia may indeed be exceptional among nations, and uniquely toxic."

The rejection of Russian culture can only give solace to culture warriors across the United States who are pressing for the banning of books and restrictions on what students can read in our public schools. Also, Russian nativists around President Vladimir Putin could use this as "proof" that the West is opposed to Russian identity and culture.

I am an aspiring iconographer. I study iconography under the tutelage of an artist who emigrated from Russia. Should I stop writing about icons because Patriarch Kirill of the Russian Orthodox Church is one of Mr. Putin's primary enablers and the Russian Orthodox Church is providing a spiritual veneer over the atrocities in Ukraine? Of course not. I understand the difference between a deeply beautiful, 1,000-year tradition of Russian spiritual artistry and a contemporary Russian political hack.

We need look back no further than the last four decades of the 20th century to find voices arguing against Russian culture because of the Soviet threat. Fortunately, those voices did not prevail, and, at the height of the Cold War, Russian music and art continued to be enjoyed by European and American audiences.

Mr. Putin and those around him are trying to define the Ukraine war as a struggle to preserve the "purity" of Russian culture and values from the depravity of contemporary Western European and North American culture. Let's not give them "proof" of the United States' enmity toward Russian culture. Let us also not provide unintended ammunition for people who have similar culture warrior goals in this country.

Bill Thompson, *North Potomac*

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COLBERT I. KING

Peace on Earth, and not just for some

"Joy to the world, the Lord is come" will be sung with gusto on Christmas Day by many sharing my faith tradition. We will sing that beloved carol that speaks of a world ruled by the Lord's "truth and grace" and of "nations [proving] the glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love."

But how much joy exists at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, where only days ago a vandal painted "Jews Not Welcome" on an entrance sign?

And where is joy in Montgomery County after police last month found antisemitic graffiti, including swastikas, hangmen and white-supremacist language, also in Bethesda?

We will sing our rhapsodies to "heaven and nature" and the Lord's coming. But our song won't take note of the rise of antisemitism in this region and across the country. Or the harsh realities of racism and bigotry based on sexual identity and religion lurking outside our churches (and too often within).

Yes, this is the time to proclaim, "Peace on earth and goodwill to all." This is the time to share warm feelings stirred by scenes of an innocent babe in a manger, decorated trees and bright shining lights. But what if we lift our eyes from Christmas visions and glimpse the dark side?

Because evil and pain don't take time off for Christmas.

Last week, The Post published a report on Hatchet M. Speed, a Navy reserve petty officer with a top-secret security clearance accused of breaching the U.S. Capitol with the Proud Boys extremist group on Jan. 6, 2021. He was charged with keeping unregistered silencers among a stash of firearms, while Speed's lawyers contended the devices were "solvent traps" used in cleaning guns. The jury in Alexandria was unable to reach a unanimous verdict, so the judge declared a mistrial. (Speed still faces a separate trial in D.C. federal court on misdemeanor charges related to the Capitol incursion.)

But that isn't why this case fills this space.

Any notion of Christmas being the launch of a peace in which, as the prophet Isaiah said, "there will be no end," is shattered by details in the case against Speed. An undercover FBI agent testified in court that Speed said he wanted to kidnap Jewish people in the Washington region and subject them to violence. "People who don't have bodyguards, people who don't have intel organizations helping them out," government documents quote him as saying. He said more.

Discussing his views of American politics, Speed reportedly lamented that he previously "didn't realize . . . how organized the opposition is" and "what [he] didn't realize is the whole Jewish element," which he described as a "total blind spot." Speed allegedly stated: "If we don't have an organized way to fight back there's absolutely nowhere to commit." Speed noted that "Hitler really demonstrated that." Discussing his admiration for Adolf Hitler, the undercover agent reported, Speed described the Nazi dictator as "one of the best people that's ever been on this earth."

And we sing, "Joy to the world."

I think of a Christmas notion heard growing up: This is a time of year to spread joy to children, and to show kindness.

Where is the joy and kindness embracing some of our children?

As of Dec. 1, 16 children in our nation's capital had been killed by gunfire this year. More than 80 of our youths were shot and injured, and more than 200 juveniles were arrested for committing violent crimes, reported The Post's Emily Davies.

And as of Dec. 1, police data showed fatal shootings of youths have more than doubled compared to the same time last year. Nonfatal shootings of juveniles were also up by more than 80 percent.

What, then, is the meaning of Christmas? I know what it's not.

Christmas is not all about gift giving, extolling greeting card images of peace or using a day off to escape life's pressing burdens.

Imprisoned in Berlin by the Gestapo in 1944 for his association with groups planning a new social order after the collapse of the Third Reich, Alfred Delp, a Roman Catholic priest, wrote in that December, "This year the temptations toward a picturesque Christmas are probably reduced."

That understatement camouflaged what was to come. Two months later Delp was executed. In one of his letters smuggled out of prison, he spoke of the need to confront the harsh realities of life even at Christmas; the reality that in our journey, we will face forces that would rob Christmas of its innocence, beauty and promise.

If those of my faith, and those with different faiths or no faith at all, share the Christmas spirit of rescuing humanity for a better world, then we have a job to do.

We must stand up to hate, attack root causes of violence and despair, lift the lost and least among us. "These burdens are among the fixed conditions and prerequisites of life," Delp wrote as he faced the harshest Christmas of his life. So, too, for some of us this Christmas.

A call to change the world is resorting to the cliche "the real reason for the season." It also poses a heavy lift. But pursuing and accomplishing that just might bring some real joy to the world.

DRAWING BOARD

BY MATT DAVIES FOR NEWSDAY

BY MIKE LUCKOVICH FOR THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

BY JEFF KOTERBA FOR THE OMAHA WORLD HERALD

BY R.J. MATSON FOR CQ ROLL CALL

Wanted: More livestock vets in rural communities

BY CINDY HYDE-SMITH

The United States is blessed with one of the safest, most abundant and most affordable food supplies in the world, but it's not a blessing invulnerable to threats. The ongoing pandemic, extreme weather events around the world and Russia's invasion of Ukraine, for instance, have contributed to supply chain disruptions and rapidly rising food costs.

And here's another serious challenge that confronts the U.S. livestock and poultry industries: a severe shortage of food-animal veterinarians in rural areas.

This shortage threatens public health, food safety, food security and the economic growth of communities that depend on agriculture. We should use the opportunity of the upcoming debate on the 2023 Farm Bill to tackle the problem before it worsens.

Veterinarians are a critical link in the food supply chain. They are on the front lines of treating and preventing the spread of animal diseases, keeping our food safe and helping ensure that diseases don't jump from animals to humans.

Private-sector veterinarians work with individual farmers to protect the health of the farmers' livestock, enabling them to maintain strong businesses. Public-sector veterinarians work across a number of government agencies, where they inspect meat and poultry products, monitor for foreign animal diseases, and enforce animal welfare laws.

A new report commissioned by the Farm Journal Foundation, however, found that only 3 to 4 percent of new veterinary graduates focus on food animal medicine, a significant decline from 40 years ago, when about 40 percent pursued this area of study. As a result, more than 500 U.S. counties face a shortage of food animal vets. In my home state of Mississippi, as in many other states, we now have counties without a single large animal veterinarian.

Veterinary students today see higher earning potential in working with companion animals, such as dogs, cats and other pets. Faced with paying off high levels of student debt and equipping a veterinary business, they opt for these better income prospects in urban and suburban areas over the lower incomes and more demanding workloads that come with rural veterinary work.

To help protect our food supply, we must do more to support veterinarians, including strengthening incentives for work in rural areas. As part of its work on the Farm Bill, Congress should expand the Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program, the flagship federal grant program to help pay off the educational loans of veterinarians who agree to serve in rural shortage areas. Today, the VMLRP helps fill positions in only a fraction of the nation's underserved areas. Its impact is diminished because awards are subject to a federal withholding tax, meaning that 37 percent of the dollars appropriated to this program go right back to the U.S. Treasury instead of toward relieving the student debt of rural vets.

The bipartisan Veterinary Medicine Loan Repayment Program Enhancement Act (S. 2215), which I co-sponsored, would eliminate taxes on programs that encourage vets to practice in rural and underserved areas, just as medical doctors are exempt from withholding on federal grants linked to their working in rural regions with health-care shortages.

Congress should also adequately fund and administer programs that offer business support to veterinary practices in rural communities. We should look at how to improve the Veterinary Services Grant Program, which supports education, training and practice enhancements such as equipment purchases for veterinarians in shortage areas.

Finally, Congress needs to work with veterinary schools to enroll more students from rural backgrounds who have an interest in serving their own communities. Supporting training opportunities for rural and underserved students would help increase student retention and mirror successful medical school programs that benefit rural applicants.

As we've seen in the past year, every link in our food supply chain is important, and challenges that affect one part of the system can create negative consequences for everyone — farmers, producers, processors and consumers. We need to act now to maintain safe, affordable food supplies for all Americans by ensuring a healthy pipeline of rural food animal vets.

The writer, a Republican U.S. senator from Mississippi, is the former Mississippi commissioner of agriculture and commerce. She serves on the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry and the Senate Appropriations subcommittee on agriculture, rural development, Food and Drug Administration, and related agencies.

ALEXANDRA PETRI

Yes, that is my baby crying on the plane, and I am so sorry

"I see you," your expression says. "You are that most loathed of all beings: the person who has brought a baby onto an airplane. You are doing this deliberately. You have shown up with an infant because you know there is no worse sound, and you are in your glory as you unleash her upon an unsuspecting public. When you land, you are just going to turn right back around and do it all over again, because this is your idea of a good time."

Probably your resentment has been building for some time. First you noticed us in the airport, milling around with a baby and what appeared to be roughly 800 bags, all full of various doodads, some of which themselves made annoying sounds. You overheard me referring to myself in the third person as "Mommy," possibly in a sentence as damning as, "Mommy is loving her Starbucks egg bite!" and you formed a negative impression of me on this basis. I would have, too!

Then you got to see us board the plane ahead of you with our cavalcade of complex, folding, baby-adjacent objects, and then you forgot about us for several blissful minutes, and then you got to your seat and then . . . there we were. You smiled politely at the baby, but you did so with the cold hand of dread seizing your heart, and you were correct to do so, because the second we became airborne, the baby began crying and she has not stopped since, except for a brief interval to rest her lungs and vary things by emitting a horrible gurgle.

I am so sorry. Yes, that is my baby, and I do not want her to be making this sound either. I am even closer to her than you are, and she is doing it right into my eardrum.

You are not wrong that this is a bad way to travel. I really wish she were not screaming. Indeed, I wish it even more than you do! I wish I were asleep. Whenever I get onto a plane, I always try my best to fall asleep, because if I am awake, at every slight bump I must resign myself to the inevitability of death. But, as a baby, she is understandably not resigned to the inevitability of death. That, I think, is why she is screaming so loudly: because my attempt to soothe her by invoking the inevitability of death has not worked. Or she has dropped her stuffed zebra somewhere impossible to retrieve, which in its way is kind of worse. Less abstract.

Would it help if I told you the nurses said she had a "musical cry"? No?

Please believe I am trying to get her to stop. I am reasoning with her right now. Understandably this is not going well, because she is, as previously discussed, a baby. I think what I am saying is pretty compelling, though! But she is giving me nothing. Now I am shaking a rattle and making my funniest face. Just three hours to go!

You must understand that this baby has many redeeming qualities. She is a lot of fun at the dinner table. She has the best smile in the world, if you can imagine her smiling. I know it's difficult to imagine that this baby could ever do anything but scream a horrible scream, but actually she mostly does not scream! Mostly she smiles! Sometimes she naps! She likes to bite things and laugh.

She is a voracious reader, often devouring as many as three books in a morning. We are still trying to get her to read them and not eat them, but we are glad she is excited about them in whatever capacity. She likes to say "aaaaa" and "mama," sometimes to me, her actual mama, at other times to large inflatable holiday decorations.

Look, if there were a way to get her across the country without flying, I would be doing that instead. I did research other options, but they all seemed to involve fording rivers and oxen dying.

In her defense, she does not usually encounter these conditions. Usually, she is at sea level, or just barely above, not hurtling through the sky in a metal tube surrounded by strangers and things that flash and go ding. Then again, she loves strangers and things that flash and go ding (most of her toys do this, even when I thought I had turned them off!), so there is a tiny chance she is not crying right now at all!

Maybe you are not glaring at me, or at my screaming child. Maybe you are doing a Wordle or something, and I am napping, and the baby is gazing out the window with a beatific, peaceful expression on her tiny face. But, just in case, I'm so sorry. Only 2 hours 57 minutes to go!

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METRO

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022 EZ SU **B**

8 a.m.	Noon	4 p.m.	8 p.m.
15°	20°	25°	23°

High today at approx. 4 p.m.
25°
Precip: **5%**
Wind: **WSW 10-20 mph**

RELIGION
Christian nationalism is present in home-schooling curriculums, despite many educators' efforts. **B2**

THE DISTRICT
Karen Hylton is arrested and released after yelling at the officers convicted in her son's 2020 death. **B6**

OBITUARIES
Artist Philip Pearlstein, 98, balked at abstraction and embraced realism in painting nude models. **B4**

Covid rates rising again in the region

CAUTION URGED FOR THE HOLIDAYS

Officials encourage people to test, mask

BY KATIE SHEPHERD, JOE HEIM AND JENNA PORTNOY

As a very chilly Christmas approaches, coronavirus cases and hospitalizations are up across much of the Washington region, raising concerns that the virus might spread rapidly after people gather indoors to celebrate and escape frigid temperatures this weekend.

On Thursday evening, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention elevated the coronavirus community levels to medium in D.C., Alexandria, Montgomery County and Prince George's County. And even in surrounding counties with low community levels — such as Fairfax and Loudoun counties in Virginia — case numbers and hospitalizations have been trending up.

The virus finally caught up with D.C. Council member-elect Matt Frumin, who on Thursday tested positive for the first time since the pandemic arrived nearly three years ago.

"Today I'm hearing about how much [covid] is out there — it's enormous," he said. "I wish this headache was over but it isn't."

Frumin said he is isolating with mild cold-like symptoms and will probably miss out on plans to be

SEE **INFECTIONS** ON **B3**

'Tripledemic' is tormenting schools

A spike in respiratory infections is forcing some campuses to close

BY MORIAH BALINGIT AND DONNA ST. GEORGE

Student absences in Montgomery County have been on the rise as an early surge of flu and respiratory illnesses converged with the spread of covid-19 — in what many are calling a "tripledemic." And so ahead of winter break's beginning on Friday, the school system encouraged people to wear masks.

"Especially if they have cough or cold symptoms, in high risk exposure situations, or if they are at risk for severe complications," Medical Officer Patricia Kapunan wrote in a message to families in Maryland's largest school system.

Similarly, school officials in D.C. reported an increase in illness-related absences, though as in other school systems, D.C. officials do not track the nature of student sickness. Montgomery's medical officer said in an interview that she expected the challenging trio of viruses has contributed to absenteeism, too.

Schools and day cares from coast to coast are contending with outbreaks of respiratory syncytial virus (RSV), influenza, covid and a bevy of other infections that have forced some to close and created major disruptions for children who are sick

SEE **SCHOOLS** ON **B3**

ROBB HILL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Montgomery students decry antisemitic acts

Hundreds of students at Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda walked out of classes Thursday in support of the school's Jewish students. Antisemitic graffiti was painted on the school's entrance sign last weekend.

BY NICOLE ASBURY

Eliana Joftus couldn't believe someone had spray-painted "Jews Not Welcome" on the entrance sign to her campus, Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda. Days before, she'd helped lead a lesson as president of the school's Jewish Student Union on how to combat stereotypes and be an ally to Jewish students.

The graffiti was clearly a response to that lesson, she suspected.

"It could have been just coincidence, but chances are it wasn't," Joftus, 17, said. She added that teachers had also received antisemitic emails from a sender outside of the school system over the weekend, confirming that the action wasn't random. "It really had purpose and motivation behind it."

Hundreds of Whitman students walked out Thursday against antisemitism in response to the vandalism. During a forum outside class, several Jewish students told stories of antisemitic jokes that they've heard while in school. They described how their ancestors fled Europe during the Holocaust and called on Montgomery County Public Schools — Maryland's largest school district — to increase its Holocaust education.

The vandalism was the latest in a string of antisemitic acts in the county's schools that have occurred over the past few years. Swastikas and other hate speech have been found spray-painted on the walls and bathrooms of several middle and high schools. Tilden Middle School officials found a swastika drawn on a classroom desk in April.

After those incidents, principals and other school officials denounced the acts, but students say administrators need to

SEE **WALKOUT** ON **B4**

Man sought in killing of AU teacher arrested

Mexican police detained a suspect who had been on the run since 2010

BY DAN MORSE AND LUZ LAZO

A yoga instructor long wanted in the 2010 killing of an American University accounting professor was arrested in Mexico this month, authorities in Maryland said Friday as they anticipated his extradition to the United States to face the charges.

"We are happy they were able to snatch him after all the years," said Marcus Jones, chief of the Montgomery County Police Department, who praised the work of Mexican authorities and the FBI. "This is a fabulous outcome to get this guy in custody."

The popular professor, Sue Marcum, was found killed inside her Bethesda home on Oct. 25, 2010. Investigators initially suspected a break-in but eventually zeroed in on Jorge Rueda Landeros, who had met her during a Spanish class he taught. Investigators learned they had financial ties, including a life insurance policy, and identified that as his motive. But he had fled to Mexico, they wrote in court papers.

According to news outlet El Pais Mexico, Rueda Landeros was living in Guadalajara under the name León Ferrara and teaching yoga.

"It was a heinous crime," Jones said. "I thought it was just cold-blooded to do what he did for money."

Rueda Landeros held dual citizenship in Mexico and the United States, according to authorities.

Rueda Landeros had long been on the FBI's "Most Wanted" list. The FBI declined to comment.

Rueda Landeros has been charged by authorities in Montgomery County with first-degree murder, punishable by up to life in prison, and also faces a federal count of unlawful flight to avoid prosecution.

Online court records in both cases do not indicate if he has retained an attorney.

According to El Pais Mexico, Rueda Landeros denied his involvement in the killing.

"I'm innocent. I suppose not of everything, but obviously of what they are accusing me of," he said during a phone call from the Reclusorio Sur prison in Mexico City, according to the paper.

Rueda Landeros maintains that he "was not in that place at the time" and that he resided in Mexico, according to El Pais. He told the publication from prison that his DNA was at the scene of the murder because "it was a more or less intimate relationship" and that authorities "have mixed up" the daily problems that the pair had to argue that there was a motive.

"It was a long time ago, but the last time I saw her, I don't know if it was weeks before what happened next," he added.

Rueda Landeros made similar comments and denials in a 2011 interview with The Washington Post, when he said his fingerprints

SEE **ARREST** ON **B4**

Md. man keeps promise with his Christmas lights each year

BY SYDNEY PAGE

Every year before Christmas, Mike Witmer decorates his home in Gaithersburg, Md., with an elaborate light display, and every year, he gets asked the same question: "Who is Kevin?"

On the roof of his garage, "Hi Kevin" is spelled out in large, brightly lit letters, surrounded by stars. The sign has been a part of his annual Christmas display since 2002 — when his 11-year-old neighbor, Kevin, was diagnosed with cancer.

"We all knew about it, and were praying and in touch with his folks," said Witmer, 56, who has lived in the same house in Hadley Farms since 2001.

Kevin and his sister were around the same age as Witmer's son and daughter, and they all swam together at their local swim club. While the kids played, the parents socialized.

"We became friends," Witmer said of Kevin's family. "They're just the nicest people in the world."

That year, Kevin's doctors told him he could spend Christmas at home. Witmer, who had already become known in the neighborhood for his festive light display, decided to add a special shout-out to Kevin, in the hope that it would cheer him up.

Witmer wrote "Get Well Kevin" in colorful letters above his garage.

"I was just trying to be a nice dad in the neighborhood," he said. "It was such a small gesture."

SEE **LIGHTS** ON **B6**

COURTESY OF MIKE WITMER

Mike Witmer's Christmas light display in Gaithersburg, Md., includes a tribute to his late neighbor, Kevin.

RELIGION

How Christian nationalism seeped into home schooling

BY BOB SMIETANA AND EMILY MCFARLAN MILLER

The Rev. Jessie Johnson, a teaching pastor at Immanuel Bible Church in Springfield, Va., rejects the idea of a Christian nation. "The government doesn't establish churches, nor should it," he said.

But Johnson also believes that the Pilgrims who landed in Plymouth, Mass., in 1620 were on the right track when they made a covenant with God to establish a Christian society.

"There has to be a moral compass for society," he added.

Because Johnson and his wife believe American public schools lack that compass, they homeschool their three children.

A movement that originated among educators on the left in the 1970s, home-schooling was increasingly adopted through the 1980s and '90s by conservative Christian families seeking to instill their personal values in their children and shield them from an increasingly secularized public school system.

The home-schooling population consistently hovered at around 2 million students since then — a little more than 3 percent of the national student body — until the covid-19 pandemic shuttered in-person classes and forced children into Zoom classrooms.

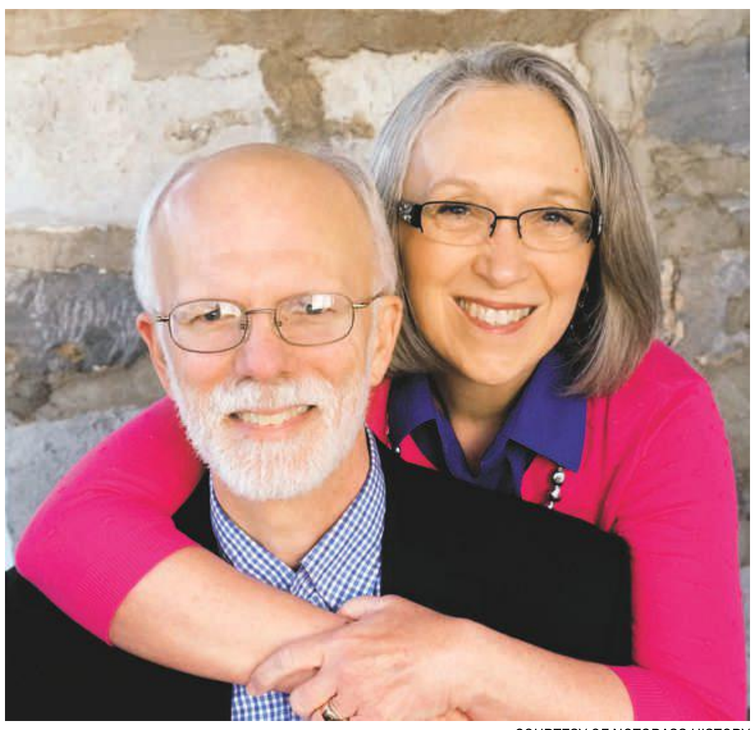
In September 2020, six months into the pandemic, the U.S. Census Bureau reported that the share of home-schooled children had shot up to 11 percent of households. With the escalated numbers has also come increased attention to home schooling.

Debates, meanwhile, have arisen over what children are being taught about American history, partly in response to the 1619 Project, a recounting of U.S. history that stresses the story of Black America, beginning with the arrival of the first enslaved people. The surrounding culture war picked up on the controversy, resulting in book bans and accusations that teachers are instructing elementary school students using a legal and academic framework known as critical race theory.

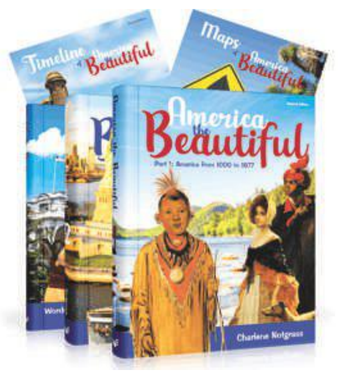
These controversies have prompted the release of politically charged home-school curriculums such as Turning Point Academy, a product engineered by pro-Trump talk-show host Charlie Kirk that promises to deliver an "America-first education." Another, the Christendom Curriculum, touts itself as "America's only Christian Nationalist homeschool curriculum" and includes "battle papers" that tell children how to argue with the liberals who supposedly hate White Christians.

Some of these programs have tiny reach — Christendom Curriculum had 100 subscribers as of September. But critics of religious home schooling say the same Christian nationalist messages, if not the same partisan divisions, have been present in the most popular and long-established curriculums used by Christian parents.

HAWA IMAGES



COURTESY OF NOTGRASS HISTORY



COURTESY OF NOTGRASS HISTORY

CLOCKWISE FROM LEFT: Tyler Burns, a graduate of Pensacola Christian Academy. Charlene Notgrass, who runs Notgrass History with her husband, Ray, a retired pastor, has been writing U.S. history and civics lessons for Christian home-school families since the early 1990s. "America The Beautiful" are the high school history textbooks from Notgrass History.

"The ideology has been taking root for at least a generation," said Doug Pagitt, an evangelical pastor in Minnesota and the executive director of Vote Common Good, a progressive voting-rights organization. Christian nationalist ideas are "all over the place" in the materials of Christian education companies, Pagitt said.

"It's in there in theology. It's in there in history. It's in there in current events," he said.

Some of the most popular home-school curriculum textbooks, produced by publishing giants Abeka, Accelerated Christian Education and Bob Jones University Press, teach that the first Europeans to arrive in Virginia and Massachusetts made a covenant with God to Christianize the land.

"The History of the United States in Christian Perspective," a textbook from Abeka, promises students: "You will learn how God blessed America because of the principles (truths) for which America stands."

Those truths made America "the greatest nation on the face of the earth," the book says, before issuing a warning: "No nation can remain great without God's blessing."

These companies' books offer students an "unproblematic and unquestionably exceptional America," said Kathleen Wellman, a professor of history at Southern Methodist University in Dallas and author of "Hijacking History: How the Christian Right Teaches History and Why It Matters," in a column for Religion News Service.

Abeka's history injects conservative values into more recent history as well, noting that "since the 1960s, decisions of the Supreme Court and other judges have contributed to the moral decline of our country."

Abeka, ACE and BJU Press declined to comment to RNS.

The Abeka curriculum was born at Pensacola Christian Academy, a K-12 school on Florida's panhandle founded in 1954. Initially working from outdated public school textbooks, the school's Southern Baptist founders, Arlin and Rebekah Horton, began publishing their textbooks in 1972 to supply the Christian schools that had proliferated after Supreme Court rulings ended segregation in public education and banned religious expression in the classroom.

Today, Pensacola Christian Academy's website boasts that every class is taught from a biblical perspective. Science instructors are explicit about "God's wonderful design," but students also learn the basic principles of chemistry and dissect frogs, much as secular students do.

It is in the humanities, especially history, that former PCA students say they were indoctrinated into a form of Christian triumphalism, in which American society was at its best when it hewed to Christian faith.

"It was just pure propaganda — nationalist propaganda," said Tyler Burns, a graduate of Pensacola Christian Academy. Former Republican president Ronald Reagan was treated as practically the "fourth member of the Godhead," Burns recalled.

As a Black American, Burns said he remembers feeling disoriented while being taught slavery was a "blessing in disguise" because it introduced enslaved Africans to Christianity. Burns, now

> *"It's in there in theology. It's in there in history. It's in there in current events."*
>
> **Doug Pagitt,** evangelical pastor in Minnesota and the executive director of Vote Common Good

president of the Witness: A Black Christian Collective, has spoken extensively about the ways Christian education affected his ability to embrace his Black identity.

The White supremacist ideas that dismayed Burns can be found in Abeka's home history curriculum as well. It implies that Southern land owners had little choice but to buy enslaved people to keep up with the demand of growing cotton and tobacco. "The Southern planter could never hire enough people to get his work done," it reads, noting at the same time that "only one out of 10 Southerners owned slaves."

In practice, many homeschooling parents fashion their own reading lists to suit their views or their children's abilities. Stephanie Rotramel, who has home-schooled her three children off and on since her oldest, now 17, was in preschool, said home schooling allows flexibility to meet specific educational needs.

This year, as her kids head back to school at home, she is using mostly Christian curriculums, though none of the ones mentioned in this article. She wants to expose her kids to diverse perspectives, though, and plans to supplement the curriculums with YouTube videos from Trevor Noah and with a "year of nontraditional lit" — books such as "Everything Sad Is Untrue," by Daniel Nayeri, and "I Am Malala," by the Pakistani education activist.

She doesn't see giving a warts-and-all account of the country's history while sharing a Christian worldview with her children as contradictory.

As a Christian, Rotramel said, she sees America as a place "full of sinners who need Jesus." That includes the Founding Fathers. It includes Ronald Reagan, too.

"I feel like that's the message of the Bible," she said. "We're all messed up. We need Jesus."

The Rev. Johnson agrees. He said he and his wife try to teach their children about the ways the United States has fallen short of the values of Christianity — in particular when it comes to race.

So while the Johnsons have had their children read the Mayflower Compact, the Pilgrims' charter for their new society that would honor the glory of God and the "advancement of the Christian faith," the family also has traveled to Charleston, S.C., to study the history of slavery and had made repeated trips to Manassas National Battlefield Park in Virginia, where two major Civil War battles were fought and not far from where they now live.

"We know whose side we are on," said Johnson, adding that slavery violated the Christian ideal that all people are made in God's image — a founding American principle.

The drumbeat of White supremacy and Christian nationalism in the past few years has also convinced some conservative Christian curriculum writers that they should revise their materials.

Charlene Notgrass, who runs Notgrass History with her husband, Ray, a retired pastor, from their home in Tennessee, has been writing U.S. history and civics lessons for Christian homeschool families since the early 1990s.

At the time, most home-schoolers were either "conservative Christians or hippies," said Charlene, 68. Most of the early homeschool textbooks reflected that.

Today, they say, home schooling is more diverse — both politically and ethnically. The couple said they have had to keep learning about overlooked parts of history and to reflect that new knowledge in their products.

In 2020, amid the George Floyd protests and a contested election, Charlene Notgrass finished a revision of "America the Beautiful," their high school history text. "Too often," it reads, "people have not believed that we are all equally valuable creations of God. Therefore, sometimes people treat people who are different from themselves — in skin color, in nationality, in political party, in the amount of money they have — as less valuable.

"No two Americans are likely ever to think exactly alike about everything," it concludes, "but we still must respect each other."

The Notgrasses describe themselves as "patriotic Americans" and want students who read their lessons to love their country. But they also want them to know the truth.

"We don't think Americans are God's chosen people, the way the Israelites are God's chosen people," Charlene Notgrass said. "The Bible tells us point-blank that God chose the Israelites. It does not tell us point-blank that God chose America."

— Religion News Service

RNS national correspondent Yonat Shimron contributed to this report.

This article is part of a series on Christian nationalism supported by the Pulitzer Center.

Faith-based groups at Mexican border unfazed by lawmakers' call for inquiries

BY ALEJANDRA MOLINA

When four Republican congressmen accused Catholic Charities USA of violating federal law by providing food, clothing and shelter to migrants on the U.S.-Mexico border, the organization quickly fired back, calling the allegations "incredibly disturbing," "fallacious and factually inaccurate."

Instead of endangering people, as the lawmakers suggested in a Dec. 14 letter that accuses Catholic Charities USA of "aiding and abetting illegal immigrants," the humanitarian work "is mandated by the gospel" and saves lives by caring for "vulnerable people on the move," a statement issued by the organization declared.

Anthony Granado, the vice president for government relations for Catholic Charities USA, said he found the lawmakers' claim insulting, saying it "threatens the core ministry of the church." The urgency of the organization's response was necessary because, Granado said, the work of Catholic Charities "has traditionally been met with a great level of respect by Republicans and Democrats alike."

"We have not seen such a level of direct ... attack against Catholic Charities USA," Granado told Religion News Service. "We will continue to do this work. We will not apologize for it. The gospel compels us to do so. If that's unpopular with certain members of Congress, so be it."

Organizations advocating for migrants on the U.S.-Mexico border, many of which are faith-based groups and churches providing shelter, say they will not be intimidated by lawmakers who are requesting investigations of nongovernmental organizations accused of "facilitating the movement of illegal immigrants across our border."

The same day Catholic Charities received the letter — which was signed by U.S. Reps. Lance Gooden (Tex.) Tom Tiffany (Wis.), Jake Ellzey (Tex.) and Andy Biggs (Ariz.) — Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) asked the state attorney general to investigate NGOs that he says have assisted illegal border crossings near El Paso.

With pandemic-era immigration restrictions expected to expire soon, border towns have been preparing for an onslaught of migrant arrivals. Use of the public health rule known as Title 42 was supposed to end Wednesday, but U.S. Chief Justice John G. Roberts Jr. ordered a temporary hold.

Some advocates, such as the Catholic activist Dylan Corbett, the executive director of Hope Border Institute, said these tactics not only raise questions about abuse of office, but also about threats to religious liberty.

"We do this as an expression of our faith," Corbett said. "We do this as an expression of our commitment to building a more just world, because we are people of faith."

MORGAN LEE/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Pastor Elias Rodriguez, center right, greets migrants Thursday in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico. Four congressmen have accused Catholic Charities USA of violating the law by providing aid at the border.

Pedro De Velasco, the director of education and advocacy for Kino Border Initiative, a Catholic group that advocates and provides humanitarian assistance for migrants in Nogales, Ariz., as well as in Nogales across the border in Mexico, said his organization has not received any such inquiry into its humanitarian assistance.

To De Velasco, these queries are meant to "raise doubts in the work that NGOs are doing for the migrants" — work that the government should be doing, he added.

"There's a need, because the U.S. government is not upholding the international and domestic laws of people accessing asylum. People are stranded. They're stuck in Nogales and all across the border," he said.

"It's complicated, because we know that [in] a lot of these Republican states, these conservative states, they call themselves Christian, and we are currently in the Advent season. ... Many Christians seem to forget that Christ is truly present in the migrants that are stranded on the other side of the border, begging us to open the doors to him," De Velasco said.

Granado said Catholic Charities USA first received a similar letter from the lawmakers in February asking for information "about our alleged role and work with the administration." Granado said the organization didn't respond, because it was under no obligation to do so.

The letter this month was different, requiring Catholic Charities to preserve all information concerning "expenditures submitted for reimbursement from the federal government related to migrants encountered at the southern border." Catholic Charities was urged to comply or risk being compelled to do so "by congressional subpoena next year," according to the letter.

Granado said there has been no further communication with the lawmakers since Catholic Charities issued its statement Dec. 14, where it noted that the federal government was "fully responsible" for determining who enters the country.

Humanitarian care, which includes bathing facilities and overnight respite, is provided legally, the organization said, adding that it "typically begins after an asylum-seeker has been processed and released by the federal government."

For Granado, it's important to note that "this is not Catholic Charities USA against the Republican Party."

"There are many Republicans who strongly value the work of Catholic Charities and look to faith-based entities like our own, and other groups in civil society, to assist the public sector, to assist government in serving people ... because government cannot do everything alone," Granado said.

Rabbi Ilana Schachter said she witnessed firsthand the role of faith-based groups on the border when she visited the area of El Paso and Ciudad Juárez earlier this month with a delegation of rabbis organized by HIAS, formerly the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, and T'ruah: the Rabbinic Call for Human Rights.

"What we're seeing right now at the border is a lot of suffering," said Schachter, who serves at Temple Sinai in Roslyn Heights on Long Island. "People are going through extraordinary lengths to put themselves and their families out of direct threat and danger."

Schachter, who is involved with interfaith work in New York state, said she saw many Catholic shelters "just doing this work, volunteer-based, and out of the goodness of their heart because of what their faith tradition teaches."

"It has to do with human dignity ... and that's a tenet of my faith as a rabbi, but I would hope that would be a universal tenet," she said.

— Religion News Service

Officials urge testing before gathering

INFECTIONS FROM **B1**

with his adult children this week, who are visiting for the holidays. But his biggest concern is that he may have unintentionally passed the virus to others before he started feeling ill, despite his efforts to be safe by getting boosted and checking his temperature every day before interacting with the public.

"If you feel even an inkling that you might be sick, get out there and get tested," he said.

Faced with rising case numbers and hospitals already inundated with flu and RSV patients, local officials are encouraging residents to test before gathering, consider wearing masks in crowded public spaces, practice good hygiene by washing hands frequently, and cover coughs and sneezes. And if you feel sick, even on Christmas Day, stay at home.

"Better to miss out on something than get a loved one seriously ill," Montgomery County Executive Marc Elrich (D) said Wednesday, after the county's coronavirus community level crossed the threshold into medium.

The full picture of how the coronavirus is spreading within the community is hard to gauge, in part because many people are testing at home and not reporting the results. Local governments across the country are also reporting data less often — Montgomery County was the only jurisdiction in the region to publicly update its community level to medium before the CDC published its analysis Thursday night.

Case rates across the region are not quite as high as this time last year, when the first omicron variant began spreading through the United States, though they are higher than at many other points during the pandemic. Still, the CDC recommends those at high risk of severe illness from covid-19 wear masks in indoor public spaces when community levels cross into medium, and advises people to test before meeting with a high-risk person and wear a high-quality mask in their presence.

Holiday celebrations and pandemic fatigue stand in the way of some of the most effective precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Even as coronavirus metrics have worsened in recent weeks, officials across the region have left masking and other risk management strategies up to personal choice. Booster vaccination rates have lagged despite widespread embrace of the primary vaccine series across the region. And few people seem eager to don masks and keep socially distant at the start of a third pandemic winter.

Few residents received a bivalent booster this fall, despite vaccination rates that remain far

SAUL LOEB/AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE/GETTY IMAGES

People shop at the annual Downtown Holiday Market in D.C. Local officials are again encouraging residents to test before gathering and to consider wearing masks in crowded public spaces.

higher than the national average. Even in Montgomery County, which boasts an overall vaccination rate of 93 percent, only 31 percent of eligible residents have received the updated booster that also protects against the omicron variants, according to CDC data. Other jurisdictions in the region have even lower booster uptake, with only 17 percent of residents in Prince George's County, 18 percent in Loudoun County, 23 percent in Fairfax County and 27 percent in D.C. receiving an updated booster shot.

"Better to miss out on something than get a loved one seriously ill."

Marc Elrich, Montgomery county executive (D), in recommending that if anyone feels sick, even on Christmas Day, they should stay home

"Boost, mask, wash, test — that's what we're recommending," Elrich said. "These four steps still work."

As the year winds to a close, coronavirus clinics offering tests, vaccination boosters and flu shots will be open across the region. The District runs eight covid-related centers, one in each ward.

The Montgomery County Health Department will keep three testing and vaccination clinics open on Dec. 26 and Jan. 2, so that residents who feel ill can get tested, but the clinics will not be open on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve or New Year's Day.

Prince George's County also publishes a map of the three county-run testing sites and dozens of privately run sites.

Several free PCR testing sites in Alexandria will shutter at the end of the week, but free tests are still offered at neighborhood clinics and free rapid tests are still available through the public library. Alexandria reported a seven-day average of 210 new daily cases this week.

Cases have also been ticking up in Fairfax County, where the seven-day average of new daily cases hit 271 on Friday. Covid-19 hospitalizations have been on the rise in Virginia and Maryland. And across the region, hospitals have been struggling to keep up with the number of patients seeking treatment for respiratory infections in recent weeks, with a growing number of people showing up to the emergency room seeking treatment for covid.

Over the past few months, most of the patients who tested positive for the coronavirus at Suburban Hospital in Bethesda were seeking treatment for other medical reasons and were asymptomatic for covid. But that has changed recently, said Eric Dobkin, the hospital's vice president of medical affairs and chief medical officer.

"What we're seeing now is at least half of the patients that are in the hospital that are covid positive are actually here because of symptoms of covid or covid-type complications," he said.

Dobkin expects the number of patients with covid will not reach previous surge levels, but he pleaded for people to continue to take it seriously and take appropriate steps to prevent spread.

"People have to be wearing masks. They have to keep social distancing and please, please, keep up to date with vaccinations," he said. "I mean, I can't stress that more."

Dobkin said he understood that people have grown tired of having to take precautions, but he warned that there is still much unknown about covid.

"The consequences of being infected with covid, or influenza for that matter, are not necessarily benign," he said.

Covid cases continue to rise at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, and covid and flu numbers are expected to increase following the holidays, said Pouya Gharahdaghi, the hospital's assistant medical director and an emergency room physician. He recommends that those who can get vaccinated for the coronavirus and flu do so to lessen the effect of the illnesses.

"Everyone's tired of wearing a mask. I don't blame them," Gharahdaghi said. "That being said, in times that you know there's going to be an uptick, with people from across the country coming together to visit family and bringing the virus with them, if you can take precautions to protect yourself and your loved ones, it's a good idea to do so."

Residents preoccupied Wednesday afternoon with holiday shopping and the looming storm showed little sign of the pandemic panic that gripped the region for two previous winters. Instead, masks are optional in most businesses, and many choose to go without them.

Josh Clapper described a surreal experience of reading an article contemplating the return of more widespread masking while he was riding a Metro train, unmasked like all the passengers around him. He imagined phones pinging with "tri-demic" alerts any minute.

"People want this to be a normal holiday season. They want that really badly," said Clapper, who is in the military and recently returned from Japan where masking was universal.

Although his family isn't gathering in a big group this year for other reasons, he said in past years they discussed everyone's vaccination status to make sure they were all protected. Like Clapper, few people entering the Metro station in Dupont Circle were masked.

Serena Lo, a federal government employee, said she was one of maybe 15 percent of riders in her Metro train car wearing a mask, which she removed by the time the extra-long escalator delivered her to the street level.

"I am constantly still thinking about it, but it is hard when you see hardly anyone wearing masks anymore," she said.

She worries about her 80-year-old mother, who grocery shops without a mask but has remained covid-free throughout the pandemic. Lo credits being up-to-date on her vaccines with feeling only flu-like symptoms when she contracted the coronavirus in July.

However, she worried that because the vaccines offer protection from severe illness, but not total protection from infection, people will be dissuaded from getting the updated booster.

"Some people might logic through that and think, 'What's the point?'" she said.

LOCAL DIGEST

REGION

Cold, showers blanket the Washington area

Winter showed its ugly face in Washington on Friday, as rain mixed with sleet and snow showers and snarling winds made the free-falling temperature feel colder still.

Flags blew straight. Ice pellets stung faces. Dogs begged their owners to not take them on a walk.

The sun was out by early afternoon, but temperatures continued to drop and reached the teens by nightfall.

As of about 5 p.m., Dominion Energy's outage map showed around 55,000 customers without power in Virginia, and Pepco's outage map showed around 8,100 customers without power in the District and Maryland.

The District issued a hypothermia alert with temperatures expected to drop into the single digits overnight and not expected to climb above the 20s over the weekend.

D.C. officials said the city's shelters and hypothermia centers, which are activated when temperatures, including wind chill, fall below freezing, will remain open. Anyone who needs shelter or sees someone in need of shelter may call the city's Shelter Hotline at (202) 399-7093 or dial 311.

— Joe Heim and Justin Wm. Moyer

MARYLAND

Curbside dining in Baltimore will continue

Baltimore will soon expand its outdoor dining policies to include permanent parklets, according to a news release from the Baltimore City Department of Transportation.

The city in 2020 temporarily approved parklets, also known as curbside seating or "street seats," in response to the pandemic.

Parklets have bloomed so much since then that the city's transportation department wants to make them permanent. A final outdoor dining policy is expected to take effect July 1, the department says.

The existing temporary permits will extend through June 30.

— Baltimore Sun

Pedestrian killed in Langley Park area

A pedestrian was killed Friday morning in the Langley Park area of Prince George's County, the county police said.

They said she was struck about 5:50 a.m. by a driver going south on University Boulevard at 23rd Avenue.

Police said they are trying to identify her. No age was available. The cause of the crash is being investigated, police said.

— Martin Weil

LOTTERIES

Results from Dec. 23

DISTRICT

Day/DC-3:	0-4-5
DC-4:	7-2-7-9
DC-5:	6-7-0-2-4
Night/DC-3 (Thu.):	9-3-4
DC-3 (Fri.):	9-3-8
DC-4 (Thu.):	7-4-9-5
DC-4 (Fri.):	2-5-9-4
DC-5 (Thu.):	8-6-4-9-3
DC-5 (Fri.):	3-9-1-2-8

MARYLAND

Day/Pick 3:	0-0-8
Pick 4:	1-3-7-5
Pick 5:	5-3-8-4-1
Night/Pick 3 (Thu.):	5-9-8
Pick 3 (Fri.):	0-1-8
Pick 4 (Thu.):	0-6-1-6
Pick 4 (Fri.):	2-2-7-8
Pick 5 (Thu.):	6-0-7-3-7
Pick 5 (Fri.):	4-6-4-9-6
Multi-Match (Thu.):	2-5-10-11-23-27
Bonus Match 5 (Thu.):	19-20-28-34-35 *4
Bonus Match 5 (Fri.):	1-4-29-32-36 *27

VIRGINIA

Day/Pick-3:	2-9-8 ^6
Pick-4:	3-7-3-3 ^7
Night/Pick-3 (Thu.):	9-1-2 ^0
Pick-3 (Fri.):	3-0-5 ^1
Pick-4 (Thu.):	2-5-2-8 ^6
Pick-4 (Fri.):	6-4-6-9 ^1
Cash-5 (Thu.):	6-15-30-37-40
Cash-5 (Fri.):	11-24-37-38-40

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Mega Millions:	15-21-32-38-62 **8
Megaplier:	4x
Cash 4 Life:	6-27-28-39-49 ¶4
Lucky for Life:	5-12-30-37-41 ‡17

*Bonus Ball **Mega Ball ^Fireball ¶ Cash Ball ‡Lucky Ball

For late drawings and other results, check **washingtonpost.com/local/lottery**

Schools bracing for more illness after holiday break

SCHOOLS FROM **B1**

for days or weeks.

The bugs are hardly new: They commonly circulated among children in schools and day cares before the pandemic, especially as temperatures turned cold.

But pediatricians suspect that children and infants who were masked or ensconced at home for two years had fewer exposures to common viruses and may not have built up resilience to them. As pandemic restrictions eased, many were exposed for the first time, causing a spike in illnesses and infections. A wave of RSV infections began in August or September, a month earlier than normal. Flu season also arrived about six weeks early, with unusually high numbers of infection in October.

The numbers are striking: By mid-November, rates of hospitalization for RSV had nearly quintupled compared with the previous year, with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reporting 5.1 hospitalizations for every 100,000 people. Among young people under 18, hospitalizations peaked in mid-November, when the agency reported 18.7 RSV hospitalizations for every 100,000 people, five times the rate of the same week last year.

The spike forced some schools and day cares across the country to close — not just because kids were sick, but because too many of the adults caring for them had fallen ill, too, according to school leaders. The situation largely impacted smaller districts and was exacerbated by schools also dealing with shortages of teachers and substitutes.

What's happening this fall is hardly a repeat of last school year, when students and staff were out sick with covid quarantining because they'd been exposed to the virus. That, combined with a dire staffing shortage, forced schools toward desperate measures: Principals last year were cleaning bathrooms, National Guard members were driving buses, and students were spending days at school without teachers.

This year, closures have been far more limited. Still, absenteeism is up in many schools — during a year when they are hoping to make up for the days lost to the pandemic.

Schools and day cares from coast to coast are contending with outbreaks of RSV, influenza, covid and a bevy of other infections that have forced some to close.

The tiny district in Osage City, Kan., which serves fewer than 1,000 kids, started its holiday break last Wednesday — three days early — because 40 percent of its students were out with illnesses. Stafford High School in Virginia closed after roughly 1,000 out of 2,100 students called in sick after a school dance. A school in Southern Oregon remained open even after 40 percent of students were out sick, according to the Medford Mail-Tribune.

Van Dyke Public Schools in Michigan, with fewer than 2,000 students, closed for a day in December to do a deep cleaning.

"It seems there are too many illnesses going around to safely and healthily run our buildings," the district said in an announcement. "It's definitely December in Michigan."

Brian Creasman, superintendent of Fleming County Schools in Kentucky, made the tough call to cancel four school days in November after illnesses hit his staff so hard he worried that there were not enough adults to ensure students could be safely supervised. The district's attendance rate is usually above 90 percent, but in early November, it dipped below 80 percent. And upward of 40 staff members eventually called in sick.

"At that point, it became unsafe to stay open, because you can't fill the positions with subs," Creasman said. And in the days leading up to the closure, there were so many teachers out that many classes had to abandon curriculum. "It's not about teaching and learning. It's just basically making sure that kids are safe, that kids are not going all over the place."

Creasman's district was one of at least 25 Kentucky school districts that shut down or shifted to remote learning in the midst of outbreaks in November, according to the Kentucky School Boards Association.

The ripple effects of sick kids and shuttered day cares spread to hospitals overwhelmed with pediatric patients and parents forced to miss to work. More than 100,000 people missed work because of child-care issues in October, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, a number exceeding even the worst months of the pandemic. And it has led to spot shortages of children's medications.

Colorado saw an extraordinary spike in the number of children hospitalized for RSV, and tallied 447 outbreaks in schools and day-care facilities, according to the state's public health department. Five schools in Ann Arbor, Mich., have had to close in the past week because of staff shortages, according to WXYZ Detroit.

Some concerned school leaders are bracing for another spate of infections in the new year, after students and staff return from winter break. In Philadelphia, schools will require masks for the first 10 days of school, the Philadelphia Inquirer reported. A school district in New Jersey has already reinstated a mask mandate, according to NJ.com.

In the Washington region, the 160,000-student Montgomery County system sent students home with coronavirus tests before the winter break and urged that they test before returning in January. The county was moved in mid-December from a "low" covid community level, as designated by the CDC, to a "medium" level.

Teachers and students in D.C. will also have to take coronavirus tests before they return to work.

One bit of good news: The number of children and infants hospitalized for RSV has fallen sharply since mid-November, according to the CDC.

David Rubin, director of PolicyLab at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia, said the early wave of RSV infections means kids who caught it in the fall have developed some immunity and are less likely to fall ill again.

"It creates some optimism for the second half of the winter season because we're unlikely to see a resurgence of RSV," Rubin said.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES DIRECTORY

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Livestream: **youtube.com/washarchdiocese**

Christmas Day Mass at 12 noon at The Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

Livestream: **nationalshrine.org/mass**

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COURTESY OF AMERICAN UNIVERSITY

Sue Marcum, 52, was described by Cathy Vincent-Smith, a close friend, as the person who "kept everyone together" — like glue.

Suspect in case of an AU teacher's killing arrested

ARREST FROM **B1**

and DNA would be in Marcum's house from his visits there.

"I understand what they see from their end," he said to The Post. "They'll find me all over the place if they look hard enough . . . I drank wine from glasses there. I drank water from the glasses there. I've eaten with the forks there. I slept in that bed and the sofa."

"It doesn't look good," Rueda Landeros said back then. "That's why I'm here in Mexico."

Rueda Landeros said he did not kill Marcum but volunteered that he was the sole beneficiary of her half-million-dollar life insurance policy and that they invested money together.

Jones said he doesn't know yet how Rueda Landeros spent the last 12 years. The chief did note that Rueda Landeros had spent time in Juarez, Mexico, but was captured in the Mexican state of Jalisco. For many years, Jones said, Rueda Landeros "was smart enough to be on the run when he needed to be on the run."

Marcum's friends were lifted by news of the arrest.

"Sue was a very good person who deserved justice, and in some small way she has received it," said Don Williamson, a longtime accounting professor at American.

He taught Marcum as a student, and stayed close with her in the early parts of her career, and was later colleagues with her at the school. Within minutes of speaking Friday, he was laughing about his old friend.

"We used to speak about depreciation of elephants," Williamson said, who then turned emotional. "There isn't a day I don't think about her, about our time together."

Cathy Vincent-Smith, another close friend of Marcum's, said that two years ago on the 10-year anniversary of Marcum's death, she had given up hope Rueda Landeros would be captured.

"I'm thrilled to think that Sue will finally get justice," she said.

In an interview Friday, Vincent-Smith recalled how Marcum didn't just have more than a hundred friends, she worked to keep it that way — literally flipping through her Rolodex every so often to spot a person she hadn't seen in a while and calling that person to have lunch. That would lead to invitations to others to join them.

"She was like the glue," Vincent-Smith said. "She kept everyone together."

Students walk out after antisemitic acts

WALKOUT FROM **B1**

do more. The students hope that by walking out of their classes on Thursday, they can educate their peers on how serious and detrimental antisemitism is.

Rachel Barold, a freshman at Whitman, said she wasn't surprised when she saw news of the vandalism, since she was used to these incidents in schools. But it was "the tipping point" for students in the county to begin organizing.

Schools Superintendent Monifa B. McKnight said at a news conference Wednesday she stood with Jewish families. She condemned acts of antisemitism and added that it was "everyone's responsibility" to reject acts like this.

"This continues to be a call to action for us as a community. Every single time we have an experience in which a graffiti is placed somewhere in our community in Montgomery County, we have to stop and ask the question, 'Why is this happening?'" McKnight said. "What happens in our schools is a microcosm of what's happening in our world and our community."

She added that the school system has to continue to educate students and teach them to "embrace understanding one another."

Antisemitic acts are on the rise nationally. The Anti-Defamation League reported a total of 2,717 antisemitic incidents in 2021 — which was the highest number of incidents on record since the group started tracking such acts in 1979. In Maryland, there were 55 antisemitic acts reported in 2021. For this year, data up to August shows that the state is already close to 60 incidents, said Meredith R. Weisel, the regional director for the Anti-Defamation League's D.C. region.

Incidents in schools have also spiked. The Anti-Defamation League's data showed that there were 331 incidents reported in non-Jewish K-12 schools in 2021,

ROBB HILL FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Eliana Joftus, president of Walt Whitman High School's Jewish Student Union, speaks at a walkout Thursday. Antisemitic acts are on the rise nationally, and incidents in schools have spiked.

nearly doubling from the 161 incidents the previous year.

Weisel attributed the increases to a normalization of antisemitism fueled by social media and ignorance about the Holocaust. The former has acted as "an enormous boon to the dissemina-

> *"This continues to be a call to action for us as a community."*
>
> **Monifa B. McKnight,** Montgomery County Public Schools superintendent

tion of hate," she said. She pointed to a recent report from the organization that found 15 percent of young people ages 10-17 reported being exposed to discussions of white supremacist ideologies in online games.

"If [children] are not being taught the opposite or they're questioning things, they may act out on it," Weisel said.

There are also incidents that often don't get reported to the police or school officials but are just as damaging. Barold mentioned that since the rapper Ye — formerly known as Kanye West — praised Adolf Hitler and Nazis in an interview with far-right provocateur Alex Jones and made other antisemitic statements online, some students have gone up to Jewish students to ask, "I listen to Kanye West, how does that make you feel?"

Joftus recalled another incident she saw as a microaggression. The Jewish Student Union was serving rugelach at a school club night, and a passerby took a bite of the dish, before spitting it back out onto the table.

Joftus said the student body at her school doesn't have students who outwardly deny the Holocaust because there is a substantial Jewish population in the school. But Whitman students often make antisemitic "jokes or little comments they feel comfortable saying," she said. And she knew of other antisemitic vandalism around Montgomery County. Still, she said, this incident felt personal. She thought of the trauma her great-grandparents had gone through when they fled from Nazi Germany.

"It's like you carry all your family's grief with you, and I felt all of that with me when I saw it," she said. "It was super scary."

Montgomery County Public Schools is reworking its curriculum "to teach antisemitism as something that has been present throughout history," said district spokeswoman Jessica Baxter. The Holocaust is covered in U.S. History in grade nine and Modern World History in grade 11. The district is also creating a lesson about antisemitism during the Middle Ages in Europe for its World History course taught to seventh graders. Superintendent McKnight said the school district wants to invite community members "who have experienced some significant history in life that can shed light on our students to build their understanding," she said.

Students say education about the Holocaust should happen before high school. The current requirements are "nowhere near enough" of what students need to know, Barold said.

Since the entrance was vandalized, Whitman's Jewish Student Union has met almost daily with the school's administration to program events involving the Jewish community to take place after students return from winter break, said Ryan Kulp, the student union's secretary. The group also handed out hot chocolate this week and coordinated a video campaign of Whitman students declaring they are proud to be Jewish or proud to be an ally to the Jewish community.

On Tuesday, members of the group came together to create a new banner for the school. Perched above the school's main entrance, a sign declares that "everyone is welcome here."

OBITUARIES

PHILIP PEARLSTEIN, 98

Raw, naked ambition: Artist's legacy built on realistic nudes

BY ANDY GRUNDBERG

Philip Pearlstein, an artist who with his friend Andy Warhol rebelled against abstraction in the 1950s, then built a legacy that rests on realistic, even daring paintings of nude models, died Dec. 17 at a hospital in Manhattan. He was 98.

The death was confirmed by Betty Cuningham of the Betty Cuningham Gallery in New York. No cause was given.

A Pittsburgh native like Warhol, Mr. Pearlstein studied art and design in the years during and after World War II at the Carnegie Institute of Technology (now Carnegie Mellon University), where he and Warhol met and studied under teachers who brought the vanguard of painting from New York to western Pennsylvania.

After graduating in 1949, the ambitious young artists moved to Manhattan, carrying their belongings in shopping bags, and supported themselves as illustrators and designers for magazines and department stores. Warhol achieved nearly instant success as a fashion illustrator, but Mr. Pearlstein was the first to find his way as an artist.

Inspired by an idea for an illustration, Mr. Pearlstein painted a large dollar sign in the center of a canvas, which led to a series of what he called "paintings of icons," which included the Statue of Liberty, Dick Tracy and Superman. Exhibited in New York in 1952, the works prefigure the Pop Art movement by a decade; Warhol began drawing and painting dollar signs in the early 1960s.

By that time, Mr. Pearlstein had moved on to drawing and painting human figures directly from observation in the studio. This technique was nearly as old as painting itself and continues to be used, mostly in art schools, but in a decade that featured Pop, Minimalism and Conceptual art, it seemed retrograde.

Mr. Pearlstein, however, chose to see himself as an art-world rebel. "It seems madness on the part of any painter educated in the twentieth-century modes of picture-making to take as his subject the naked human figure," he wrote in the magazine ARTnews in 1962. He proceeded to make the naked human figure his subject for the next half-century.

Unlike the fleshy, pulchritudinous and radiant nudes of Rubens and Renoir, Mr. Pearlstein's models are painted as ordinary human beings. Their often-sagging, uncomfortably posed flesh and their expressions reveal the boredom of the excruciatingly slow modeling process. A few paintings include men, but the vast majority depict women.

Stomachs show folds and creases, breasts succumb to gravity, and arms, feet and knees claim much space on the canvas, producing a vertiginous effect. The paint itself seems to refute any hint of glamour in the flesh, with dull shades of brown and tan contesting Renoir's insistence on glowing cotton-candy pinks.

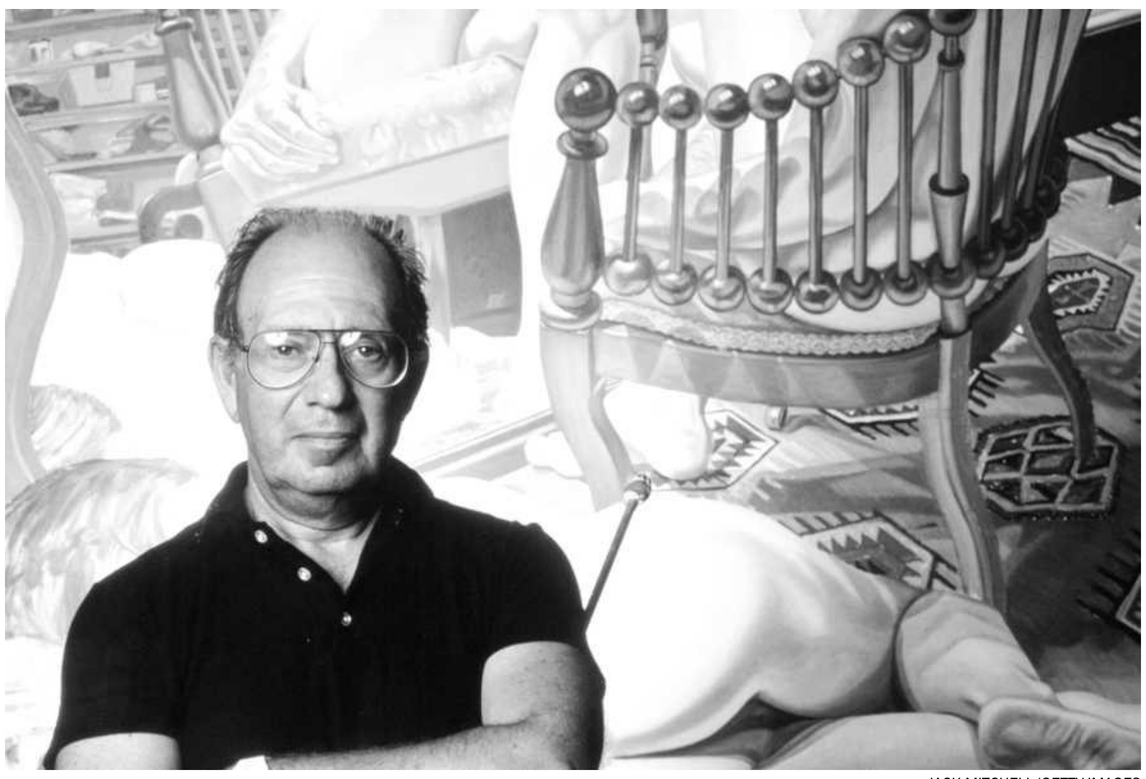
Much of Mr. Pearlstein's career coincided with a growing feminist consciousness in the art world, and for some women his pictures were merely another instance of the male gaze objectifying the female body.

Mr. Pearlstein's artistic interest was not limited to his naked subjects. Especially in later paintings, the human figure competes for attention with Turkish rugs, African or Asian masks and other precisely painted decorative objects, the patterns of which dazzle the eye and divert any possible fixation on the nude.

Together, the figures and objects create complex compositions that seem to defy spatial logic. This effect is achieved partly by the abrupt cropping at the paintings' edges, purportedly a consequence of Mr. Pearlstein's technique of starting his brushwork in the center of the canvas and working outward. The closest precedent could be the contorted proportions found in Mannerist paintings of the late Renaissance.

Mr. Pearlstein positioned his work as a statement against the Modernist preoccupation with the flatness of the picture plane and Cubism's insistence on multiple points of view. Instead, he made perspective both his ally and his enemy, creating paintings that challenge the very illusions they proffer.

In a 1962 ARTnews article, "Figure Paintings Are Not Made in Heaven," Mr. Pearlstein rejected the prevailing notion that the space of a painting needed to be flat, thus making the work necessarily abstract. "A moralistic ban



JACK MITCHELL/GETTY IMAGES

Portrait artist Philip Pearlstein in front of one of his paintings in his studio in 1989.

has been placed on spatial illusionism," he wrote. "But it is an arbitrary ban. The flatness of the picture plane is no more a truth than was the flatness of the world before Columbus."

Many critics loved his work from the start. Painter and art critic Sidney Tillim called Mr. Pearlstein's first one-person show of figure paintings a "historic exhibition," arguing approvingly in Arts Magazine that the models depicted were not symbols of beauty but human facts.

The son of a first-generation Russian immigrant father and Lithuanian immigrant mother, Philip Martin Pearlstein was born in Pittsburgh on May 24, 1924. His parents sold chickens and eggs during the Great Depression, barely scraping by, but when Philip developed an interest in art, they let him attend Saturday classes at the Carnegie Museum of Art.

As a high school junior in 1941, he won first and third prizes in a national high school art competition sponsored by Scholastic Magazine, and Life magazine reproduced his winning paintings. After graduating, he enrolled at the Carnegie Institute of Technology, but in his first year, he was drafted into the Army. He served in World War II in Italy as a graphic artist, designing road signs and other visual aids.

At the end of his three years of service, Mr. Pearlstein returned to the art program at Carnegie Tech. A younger aspiring artist, Andy Warhola (he later dropped the "a" at the end), studied alongside him and by all accounts looked up to him as a more worldly and accomplished older brother.

After they settled in New York, they roomed together for a year before Mr. Pearlstein married Dorothy Cantor, a painter who also had been a Carnegie Tech classmate. She died in 2018. Survivors include three children and two grandchildren.

Mr. Pearlstein supported himself in his early New York years by working for Czech-born graphic designer Ladislav Sutnar and then for Life. After his paintings began to attract critical attention, the artist was in demand as a teacher; he taught at Pratt Institute from 1959 to 1963 and then at Brooklyn College until 1988.

His artistic career took off in the mid-1950s when he produced a series of paintings of rocks and trees he had sketched one summer in Maine. Then came paintings of Roman ruins he had drawn while on a Fulbright fellowship in Italy in 1958 and 1959. His next work, based on a conscious decision to purge the last traces of brushy expressionism from his art, was of realistically painted nude models.

These paintings, shown at the Allan Frumkin Gallery in New York in 1963, cemented his reputation as an artist willing to confound aesthetic fashion. They also cemented his commitment to painting the human figure over the course of the next 50 years, with the exception of an ongoing series of clothed portraits of artists, family and friends.

Mr. Pearlstein influenced younger realist painters, including Chuck Close, Rackstraw Downes, Janet Fish and Sylvia Plimack Mangold. All studied painting at Yale University, where Mr. Pearlstein was a visiting critic in 1962.

Mr. Pearlstein's paintings are in the collections of major institutions including the Museum of Modern Art, the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Whitney Museum of American Art, all in New York; the Hirshhorn Museum in Washington; and the Art Institute of Chicago.

A member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters, he served as its president from 2003 to 2006.

Mr. Pearlstein's devotion to painting from direct observation remained constant throughout his career, and he continued to hire models and rely on props culled from his lifetime collection of decorative arts from around the world.

"At a certain point I have to accept what I have seen," he told the New York Times in 2002. "Otherwise I will keep shifting the image around forever, like a Giacometti. It would be easier to work from photographs, obviously, but there's an energy, an urgency working from life that doesn't come from a photograph. You're capturing something elusive, something you're not always sure of, or you're trying to capture it, before it vanishes."

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA dpw DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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DC MURIEL BOWSER, MAYOR

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D2210260078	2013	FORD	1FADP3F22DL266821
D2210310148	2019	TOYOTA	4T1B11HK2KU236905
D2210310130	2014	DODGE	1C3CDFCB83D725299
D2210220013	2014	HONDA	1HGCT1B3XEA008787
D2210210078	2014	CHRYSLER	2C4RC1BG3ER443402
D2210170103	2017	VOLKSWAGEN	1VWAT7A38HC078448
D2210150001	2015	FORD	1FA6P8AM6F5329177
D2210030111	2014	KIA	5XXGN4A79EG300189
D2210070025	2017	NISSAN	1N4AL3AP1HC205366
D2210120156	2017	INFINITI	JN1EV7AR9HM834269
D2210130061	2019	HYUNDAI	5NMS23AD4KH101471

DEATH NOTICE

DILLIE

ADELE LOUISE DILLIE

Adele Louise Dillie, age 65, of Chantilly, Virginia, went to be with the Lord on Monday, December 19, 2022. She was the daughter of late Theodore and Vera Balesh. She is survived by her husband Dennis Dillie. She attended the University of Maryland University College and graduated with a master's in Distance Education. She worked 42 years with Booz Allen & Hamilton. A viewing will be at Murphy Funeral Home on December 27, 2022 at 10:30 a.m. with service and burial to follow.

MURPHY FUNERAL HOMES
ARLINGTON | FALLS CHURCH

DEATH NOTICE

FELKER

JAMES RICHARD FELKER
November 10,1946 - December 20,2022

James Richard Felker passed away peacefully on December 20, 2022. He is survived by his wife of 56 years, Marylinn Felker, his two daughters Wendy Ruiz and Karen Felker as well as five grandsons Robert Ruiz, William, and Steven Ruiz, Christopher Felker-Russel, and Ran Felker-Russel. He is also survived by his cousin Colleen Matthews, niece Kim Miller, and nephew Kevin Britton. James is preceded by his parents Genevieve DeWitt, George DeWitt, and James Felker. He is also preceded by his sister Carolynn Britton, and brother William Thomas DeWitt.

A viewing will be held on Monday December 26, 2022 from 2 to 4 p.m. and from 6 to 8 p.m. at Gasch's Funeral Home in Hyattsville, MD. A family service and burial will take place in Frostburg, MD.

KALEKO-KRAVITZ

ESTHER KALEKO-KRAVITZ (Age 75)

Of Rockville passed away on Thursday, December 22, 2022. Wife of Steven Kravitz; Mother of Jonas (Sara) Aaron, Shira (Daniel) Rachel (Jason), Benjamin, Daniel and Bobie of 10.
Shiva will be Saturday and Sunday.
Donations may be made to JACADA, NAMI-MC, and The Dwelling Place.

KOHN

RUTH KOHN (Age 95)

Ruth Kohn, 95, of Springfield, Virginia passed away peacefully on November 19, 2022. Born in Preussisch-Friedland, Germany, she moved to Berlin in 1931, then to the Dominican Republic in 1941 to flee Nazi persecution. She moved to Central Islip, New York in 1951 and settled in New Jersey in 1960 before finally moving to Virginia in 2012. She worked as a nurse, a case worker in a community mental health clinic, and later at the Survivor's Desk at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.
Private services have been held.
Ruth was predeceased by her husband Dr. Herbert Kohn, and later, by her partner, Dr. Alfred Rubinstein. She was the mother of Daniel, David (David), and Frank (Susan), and the grandmother of Jacob and Hannah. Contributions may be made to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Temple B'nai Shalom of Fairfax Station, Virginia, or the Dominican Aid Society of Virginia.

Jefferson FUNERAL CHAPEL

DEATH NOTICE

LEE

HELEN B. LEE

Entered into eternal rest on Friday, December 16, 2022. She is survived by her five nieces, Karen Harvey (Gregory), Valerie Bowman, Sandra Bowman, Sharon Wilson and Gladys Law Williams; nephew, John Jackson, III (Sherrie) and a host of other relatives and friends. Ms. Lee will lie in state at Tabernacle Baptist Church, 719 Division Avenue NE, on Wednesday, December 28, from 10 a.m. until service 11 a.m. Interment Washington National Cemetery.
www.stewartfuneralhome.com

OWENS

KIMBERLY BAKER OWENS (Age 62)

Kimberly Baker Owens, age 62, of Springfield, VA, died on December 16, 2022, after a valiant fight against cancer. The family will receive friends at the Cunningham Turch Funeral Home, 811 Cameron St., Alexandria, VA 22314 on Tuesday, December 27, 2022 form 4 until 8 p.m. A Celebration of Her Life will be on Wednesday December 28, 2022 at 11 a.m. at the Funeral Home. Interment will follow at Mount Comfort Cemetery. Please see full Life Story at www.cunninghamfuneralhome.net/obituary/kimberly-baker-owens/
Memorial contributions may be made to the Schar's Cancer Institute, https://support.inova.org/page/3749/donate/1

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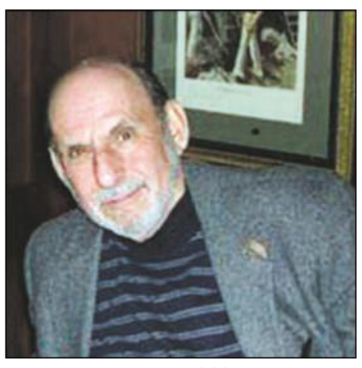
The Washington Post

IN MEMORIAM

ROSS



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5" - $678

SUNDAY
Black & White
1"- $179 (text only)
2" - $376(text only)
3" - $543
4" - $572
5" - $738

6"+ for ALL Black & White notices
$150 each additional inch wkday
$179 each additional inch Sunday

MONDAY-SATURDAY
Color
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5" - $826

SUNDAY
Color
3" - $665
4" - $760
5" - $926

6"+ for ALL color notices
$249 each additional inch wkday
$277 each additional inch Sunday

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All notices over 2" include complimentary memorial plaque

Additional plaques start at $26 each and may be ordered.

All Paid Death Notices appear on our website through www.legacy.com

LEGACY.COM
Included in all death notices
Optional for In Memoriams

PLEASE NOTE:

Notices must be placed via phone, fax or email. Photos must be emailed. You can no longer place notices, drop off photos and make payment in person.
Payment must be made via phone with debit/credit card.

The Washington Post

PAID DEATH NOTICES

HOLIDAY HOURS

Saturday, December 24, 2022 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Sunday, December 25, 2022 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Monday, December 26, 2022 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

&

Saturday, December 31, 2022 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Sunday, January 1, 2023 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Monday, January 2, 2023 11 a.m. ~ 3 p.m.

Photo Deadline: 1 p.m.

NO EXCEPTIONS

To place a notice, call:
202-334-4122
800-627-1150
Ext. 4-4122
deathnotices@washpost.com

DEATH NOTICE

KUSHNER

LAWRENCE MAURICE KUSHNER

Lawrence Maurice Kushner passed away peacefully in his home in his wife's arms on Friday morning, December 16, 2022 at the age of 98. He was born in New York City on September 20, 1924, to Mary (nee Malkin) and Hyman Kushner. He is survived by his devoted wife of over 50 years, Shirley (nee Brown) Kushner, the love of his life, as he was the love of her life. He is also survived by son, Robb (Jill) Kushner and daughter Leslie Brittle from an earlier marriage and four grandchildren, Matthew (Lauren) Kushner, Elizabeth (Ethan Dropkin) Kushner; Kate McKenzie (nee Brittle), and Frances (Ryan) Wiseman (nee Brittle); six great grandchildren; sisters-in-law Betty Overhulser, Karin Brown, Rita Brown, Dona Kushner, and numerous special nieces and nephews. His brother, Harold, predeceased him.

Larry graduated from Queens College in 1943 with a major in chemistry. This was followed by the A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in physical chemistry from Princeton University in 1947 and 1949 respectively.

Dr. Kushner joined the National Bureau of Standards (NBS), now the National Institute of Standards and Technology in 1948 and began a series of researches on the structure of micelles of surface-active agents in aqueous solutions. In 1956 he switched fields and set up a research group to study the electronic and mechanical properties of metals. In 1961 he was made Chief of the NBS Metallurgy Division, a post he held until 1966. In the period 1964-65, Dr. Kushner was special assistant for legislation to the Assistance Secretary of Commerce for Science and Technology. In that capacity, he worked on the development of legislation to assist state colleges and universities in providing technology transfer services to local business and industry.

Shortly after returning to NBS from that special assignment, Dr. Kushner was appointed Deputy Director and then Director of the NBS Institute of Applied Technology with responsibility for such programs as fire research and safety, building technology, voluntary standardization, and computer science and technology. In 1969, he became Deputy Director of NBS, taking special interest in technological innovation in industry and in standardization activities on a national and international level. He served as Acting Director of the NBS from May 1972 to February 1973.

In 1973, he was nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate as a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, an independent regulatory agency having authority to regulate the safety of a wide range of consumer products. On completing his term of appointment in October 1977, Dr. Kushner returned to NBS where he resumed his studies of technological innovation and the Government's role therein. In February 1980, he left government service to accept an appointment to the senior scientific staff of The Mitre Corporation. His studies there were primarily in regulatory toxicology, the management of hazardous waste, and several aspects of the nuclear fuel cycle including uranium enrichment and the disposal of high-level waste. In 1985, he was promoted to the position of Consulting Scientist, only the second person in the company to be so designated.

Throughout his career, Dr. Kushner has been active in a range of professional activities. During the '50s and '60s, he lectured in chemistry at the American University and supervised Ph.D. theses at Catholic University and at the University of Maryland. He served several years as Adjunct Professor of Engineering and Public Policy, Carnegie-Mellon University. In 1976, he was National President of Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Society, and served that Society on several of its national committees. He was also active on the Section Committee on Industrial Science of the American Association for the Advancement of Science. From 1972 to 1975, he was a member of The Governor of Maryland's Science Advisory Council.

The author of many scientific papers, Dr. Kushner has also spoken extensively on the interaction between science and society. His honors include the Gold Medal of the U.S. Department of Commerce, Honorary Life Membership in the American Society of Testing and Materials, Member of the Washington Academy of Scientists, Meritorious Service Award of the American National Standards Institute, and as an undergraduate, the Student's Medal of the American Institute of Chemists. He is listed in Who's Who in America.

Given his many accomplishments, Larry Kushner was a modest, down-to-earth man. He had a wonderful sense of humor; he had a great appreciation for music and the arts and was a talented photographer. He was an avid student of history. His wide circle of friends and family appreciated his kind, loving, and thoughtful nature. He was a devoted son, son-in-law, husband, father, father-in-law, uncle, and grandfather. He took excellent care of both his mind and body, which sustained him for so many of his 98 years. He and his devoted wife, Shirley, loved to travel and spent many memorable trips throughout the U.S. and abroad. Another passion of theirs was golf, and both were avid golfers. Above all, they relished one another's company. While they enjoyed being with others, they were also happy just to be together, talking, watching sports on TV, laughing, and loving. He will be missed by all who knew him.

Pastor Jeff Thompson will officiate at a memorial celebration to honor Larry Kushner's life on Wednesday, December 28, 11 a.m. at Norbeck Country Club, 17200 Cashell Road, Rockville, MD 20853, with a reception to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Doctors Without Borders (doctorswithoutborders.org).
www.sagelbloomfield.com

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Now death notices on washingtonpost.com/obituaries allow you to express your sympathy with greater ease. Visit today.

The Washington Post

DEATH NOTICE

MARCUM

CYNTHIA RAE MICALLEF MARCUM (Age 68)

Cynthia Rae Micallef Marcum passed away peacefully in her sleep on Sunday, December 18, 2022 due to complications from Amyloidosis.

Sindi, as she was known, graduated with a masters degree from James Madison University and was retired after a long career as a speech language pathologist. She is predeceased by her father, Raymond H. Micallef, MUC U.S. Navy and mother Norene Micallef. She is survived by her cherished and loving daughters Alexandra C. Abell and Jillian R. Brierley, (husband, Garrett E. Brierley), and her much-loved and adored grandsons Brodie S. Abell and Cole E. Brierley. She is also survived by her sister Karen I. O'Sullivan and devoted brother, Raymond C. Micallef.
Sindi was an avid bicyclist, hiker and traveler who had a passion for music and concerts, the outdoors, especially the beach. She had a lifelong love of learning and was excellent in trivia team games and enjoyed watching Jeopardy. She was loyal and devoted to numerous friends and extended family and will be sorely missed by all and never forgotten. Services are pending. The family asks that in lieu of flowers, consider donating to The Boston University Amyloidosis Research Fund.
http://www.bu.edu/amyloid/donate

O'HARA

MARK A. O'HARA

Mark A. O'Hara, Jr. went to his eternal rest with the Lord on December 14, 2022. He was 87 years old.
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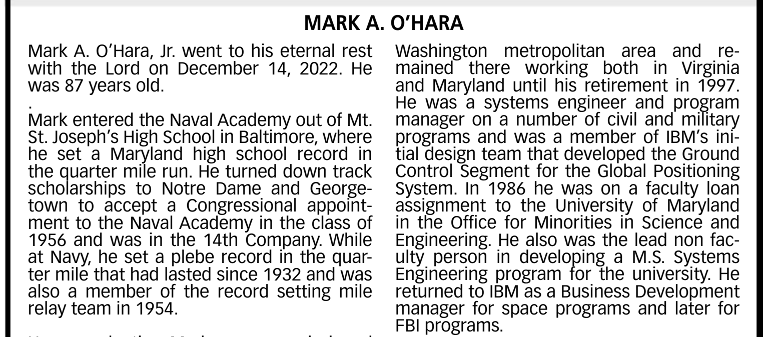
Mark entered the Naval Academy out of Mt. St. Joseph's High School in Baltimore, where he set a Maryland high school record in the quarter mile run. He turned down track scholarships to Notre Dame and Georgetown to accept a Congressional appointment to the Naval Academy in the class of 1956 and was in the 14th Company. While at Navy, he set a plebe record in the quarter mile that had lasted since 1932 and was also a member of the record setting mile relay team in 1954.

Upon graduation Mark was commissioned in the United States Air Force and after Personnel School he was assigned as the Adjutant of the 647th AC&W Squadron near Manassas, VA. In 1958 he was assigned to Stanford University where he received his M.S. in Electrical Engineering in 1960. Following graduation, he was assigned to the 416L Program Office at Hanscom Field, MA, which was responsible for the development of the computerized air defense system. At the time of his resignation in 1963 he was the program manager for the upgrade of the Alaskan air defense system.
.
Mark went to work for IBM in 1963 in the Washington metropolitan area and remained there working both in Virginia and Maryland until his retirement in 1997. He was a systems engineer and program manager on a number of civil and military programs and was a member of IBM's initial design team that developed the Ground Control Segment for the Global Positioning System. In 1986 he was on a faculty loan assignment to the University of Maryland in the Office for Minorities in Science and Engineering. He also was the lead non faculty person in developing a M.S. Systems Engineering program for the university. He returned to IBM as a Business Development manager for space programs and later for FBI programs.

Mark was predeceased in death by his wife of over 50 years, Joanne. He is survived by five children: Mark III, Suzanne, Patrick, Betsy, and Michael, 11 grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.

There will be Celebration of Life service at Life and Liberty Baptist Church, Walkersville, MD. in January 2023. Mark will be laid to rest at Loudon Park cemetery in Baltimore Md. Funeral arrangements will be provided later. Contributions in his memory should be sent to Mt. St. Joseph High School Class of 52 Fund, 4403 Frederick Ave., Baltimore, MD 21229.



Because your loved one served proudly...

Military emblems are available with death notices and in-memoriams

To place a notice call **202-334-4122** or **800-627-1150**, ext. **44122**

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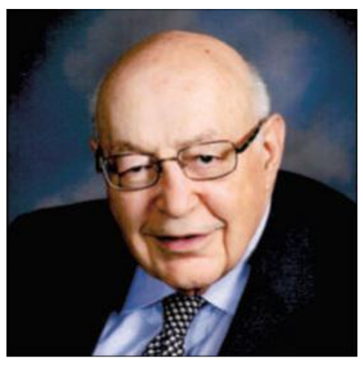
DEATH NOTICE

GOEKJIAN



SAMUEL V. GOEKJIAN
August 22, 1957 – December 09, 2022

Samuel Vahram Goekjian, age 95, devoted husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away peacefully in Washington DC on December 9, 2022, surrounded by family.

He was born on August 22, 1927, in Syra, Greece to Vahram K. Goekjian and Aznive Goekjian (née Bagdassarian). Part of the Armenian diaspora, he attended school in Ethiopia and Cyprus, then returned to Ethiopia to work for the Ministry of Education under Emperor Haile Selassie. This created the opportunity to move to the United States to attend Syracuse University, where he was active in sports and student government. Mr. Goekjian graduated Syracuse in 1952 magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, with a degree in History, after which he earned his law degree at Harvard Law School in 1957. In pursuit of his U.S. citizenship, he paused his law studies for two years to serve in the US Army during the height of the Korean conflict.

In 1955, he met, and in 1957, he married, his wife of 50 years, Alison (née MacLeod). After a few years practicing finance law for private and public institutions, Mr. Goekjian joined the law firm of Surrey & Morse. Within a few years, with four young children in tow, the family moved to Beirut, then Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat, finally settling in Maisons-Laffitte, France, while he established offices for the firm in Beirut, Paris, Riyadh, and London. The family moved back to Washington DC in 1978, where he led the firm's international arbitration practice.

In 1983, he became Chairman and CEO of Consolidated Westway Group, the U.S. holding company of an international trading and manufacturing group. Following another eighteen years practicing law, including fifteen years as managing partner of Kile, Goekjian, Reed & McManus, he spent the remainder of his career pursuing various venture capital projects.

For many years, he was a consultant for the United Nations and the U.S. Agency for International Development on cross-border development and construction, with a particular focus on Africa and the Middle East. He was also a lecturer at the George Washington University Law School (International Transactions, 1963-1968), Georgetown University Law School (International Arbitration, 1979-1982), and the Maxwell School of Syracuse University (International Economic Development, 1996-2010).

He was a generous and active supporter of his alma mater, Syracuse University, where he served on the Board of Trustees for twenty-two years, is a lifetime Trustee, and served on the Maxwell School's Advisory Board for more than fifteen years. In 1995, he established the Samuel V. Goekjian Endowment for the Global Affairs Institute, affording numerous students the opportunity to pursue international research projects, and endowed several other important initiatives at the University. He is the recipient of the Letter Winners of Distinction award from the Varsity Club of Syracuse University (1996), the Horizon Award for leadership and philanthropic commitment (2005), and the George Arents Award for Excellence in International Business and Law (2009).

After his wife Alison passed away in 2007, just after the family celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary and his 80th Birthday, Mr. Goekjian relocated to an apartment in the Residences at Thomas Circle, where he lived comfortably and enjoyed the community for the past fifteen years.

Ever the sport and competition enthusiast, he was a fierce poker player, an avid bridge player, and a hyper-competitive tavla (backgammon) player – a tradition passed down for generations – and enjoyed playing and teaching these throughout his life. He was a dedicated fan of his various sporting teams, from DC football to Cleveland baseball, to any Syracuse team, and any team in any sport that his family and friends supported. He attended Olympic games, Super Bowls, college bowl games, and any live sporting event he had a chance to see. As a lifelong avid traveler, however, he most enjoyed his time traveling around the world to spend time with his children, grandchildren, extended family, and many friends.

Mr. Goekjian was preceded in death by his parents, his wife, and his twin brother, Krikor. He is survived by his four children, Kenneth S. Goekjian (Rita) of Candia New Hampshire, Christopher A. Goekjian of London, England, Peter G. Goekjian (Miriam) of Lyon, France, and Lisa G. Henneberry (Rich) of Washington, D.C.follow.

A memorial service and celebration of his life will be held at the Palisades Community Church in Washington DC at 10 a.m. on Saturday, January 7. A private interment will follow.

DEATH NOTICE

HARTWELL

MARGARET CARROLL HARTWELL

Margaret Carroll Hartwell, 85, of Gaithersburg, Maryland, passed away on Sunday, December 4, 2022. Margaret (known to her friends and family as Peggy or Peggy Ann) was the daughter of John Ellsworth Carroll, Sr. and Margaret Helen Carroll. In 1958, Peggy married John Graham Hartwell, Sr., and was the beloved mother of her three children (Margaret Catherine, John Graham and James Andrew) and grandmother of her six grandchildren (John Scott, Matthew Aaron, Robert Allen, Phillip Andrew, James Andrew and Amelia).

Peggy's early years were spent on a working ranch near Kissimmee Florida where she had her own horse ("Pretty Gal"), and was an active part of the Silver Spurs Rodeo Club where she participated as a Flag Girl, Barrel Rider and concession volunteer. She graduated from the University of Florida in 1958 with a degree in Sociology, and worked for several years as a social worker before taking time to raise her children. Peggy later worked in various corporate roles until she retired from Microlog. When not working, she enjoyed gardening, reading, playing bridge and traveling.

Per her wishes, no funeral service will occur. Please visit the DeVol Funeral Home (Gaithersburg, MD) to view Peggy's obituary and to learn about future plans to gather together to celebrate her memory.

MOORE

SANDRA ELIN MOORE

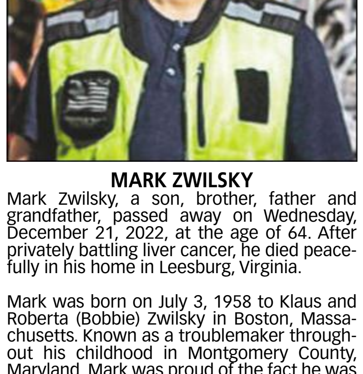
Sandra Elin (Holland) Moore went to Jesus her Lord on Friday 16 December 2022 surrounded by the love of her family, near and far. Sandy was born in Quincy, Massachusetts to Frederick C. Holland and Evelin D. Hagglund on 14 August 1938. She was an active, energizing and captivating individual with a strong personality her entire life. She was a great friend, wife, sister, mother, and grandmother. She graduated from Boston University in 1960 with a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration. After marrying the love of her life, Richard Moore (to whom she was married over 61 years), she embarked on a wondrous 26 year Air Force adventure with stops in Texas, California, South Carolina, Florida, Massachusetts, Delaware, Washington DC, Arizona, Nevada, Germany, Maryland, Greece, and Virginia. Sandy was a loving mother to Susan (Eric) Holdsworth, Richard Moore, Jr., and David (Shelly) Moore and grandmother to Lairen Moore, David Moore, Jr., and Sonja Holdsworth. The eldest of five children Sandy leaves behind her siblings Susan Demark, Court Holland, Kathe Tortorice, and Kendall Holland, their families and numerous nieces, nephews, and close cousins. Sandy was beloved by her friends and family who will miss her greatly. We are comforted to know Sandy will be rejoicing with us this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. A funeral service will be held for her at Prince of Peace Lutheran Church in Gaithersburg, MD at a later date. Please sign the guest book at:
www.DeVolFuneralHome.com

YOUNG

DONALD EUGENE YOUNG (Age 100)

Born in Newton, MA on May 5, 1922; died on Monday, December 19, 2022 in Temple Hills, MD. Dear husband of Carmina F. Young (predeceased); loving father of Donna Marie and Paul Eugene (Mary Ann); adoring grandfather of Ashley, Kyle, and Matthew; loving uncle to many nieces and nephews. Graduate of Malden High; Boston University. Served US Army in WWII (1942-1946). Statistician at U.S. Census Bureau (1950-1985), statistical advisor and consultant to Governments of the Philippines, Costa Rica, Nicaragua, and Paraguay. He was awarded the Silver Medal for Meritorious Service and the Bronze Medal from the Department of Commerce. Member of American Statistical Association; Veterans of Foreign Wars Clinton Post #9376; American Legion, Clinton Post #259. Prior Post Adjutant of Post 45 DC Department of Commerce of the American Legion. The family will receive friends at the GEORGE P. KALAS FUNERAL HOME, 6160 Oxon Hill Rd., Oxon Hill, MD 20745 on Monday, December 26, 2022 from 2 to 4 p.m. and Tuesday, December 27 from 10 a.m. until time of Mass of Christian Burial 11 a.m. at St. Philip the Apostle Catholic Church, 5416 Henderson Way, Camp Springs, MD 20746. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Online guestbook available at
www.KalasFuneralHomes.com

ZWILSKY



MARK ZWILSKY

Mark Zwilsky, a son, brother, father and grandfather, passed away on Wednesday, December 21, 2022, at the age of 64. After privately battling liver cancer, he died peacefully in his home in Leesburg, Virginia.

Mark was born on July 3, 1958 to Klaus and Roberta (Bobbie) Zwilsky in Boston, Massachusetts. Known as a troublemaker throughout his childhood in Montgomery County, Maryland, Mark was proud of the fact he was asked to leave Churchill High School prior to graduating. After earning his GED, Mark went on to Greenville Technical Institute. He married the love of his life, Mary Zwilsky on April 30, 1993. Mark was proud to watch his children, Eric Zwilsky, Sarah Zwilsky and Jeremy Wong excel in sports and later on in business and parenthood. He loved spoiling his grandchildren - Max Zwilsky, Casen Zwilsky, Julia Wong, Quinn Zwilsky, Russell Wong, Alice Meador and Charlotte Wong.

In 1996, Mark Zwilsky founded Potomac Metals Incorporated on a hope and a prayer, leasing a small warehouse with only two employees. During his 25 years of leadership, he expanded his company to nine locations and over 125 employees. Mark believed in his dream and the employees who helped build Potomac Metals to become one of the largest metal recycling companies on the East Coast today.

Mark loved to spend his free time traveling in his RV. He enjoyed his retirement by visiting National Parks, historical musical landmarks and to his favorite, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally.

Mark was a hero to many. He is a true American dream success story. Mark was loved by everyone and will be greatly missed. His legacy will live on forever in his children, grandchildren and Potomac Metals.

Funeral Service will be held on Friday, December 23, 2022, 12 p.m. at Temple Beth Ami, 14330 Travilah Rd, Rockville, MD 20850 with interment to follow at Judean Memorial Gardens, Olney, MD. In lieu of flowers, Mark's family asks that you consider making a donation to Loudoun Hunger Relief. Information can be found on how to donate food or monetary donations at (loudounhunger.org).
www.sagelbloomfield.com

THE WEATHER

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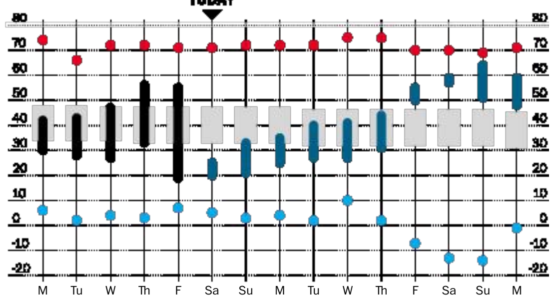
A windy and chilly Christmas Eve

Wind chills are below zero into midmorning, rising a bit above in the city by late morning. Actual temperatures are in the teens until at least midday. With highs in the zone of near 20 to the low 20s, we could see a good deal of record-low maximums set in the region. D.C. will be close to its record for the date of 23, set in 1989. At Dulles International Airport, the record is 22, which is also in play.

	Today	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Forecast	Breezy and cold	Sunny, but cold	Sunny, but cold	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny	Mostly sunny
High/Low	25° 20°	33° 21°	35° 25°	40° 27°	41° 27°	44° 31°
Feels	FEELS*: 10°	FEELS: 25°	FEELS: 38°	FEELS: 39°	FEELS: 40°	FEELS: 49°
Precip	CHNCE PRECIP: 5%	P: 5%	P: 10%	P: 15%	P: 5%	P: 10%
Wind	WIND: WSW 10–20 mph	W: W 7–14 mph	W: SW 3–6 mph	W: NNW 4–8 mph	W: S 6–12 mph	W: SSW 4–8 mph
Humidity	HUMIDITY: Low	H: Low	H: Moderate	H: Moderate	H: Moderate	H: High

OFFICIAL RECORD

Temperatures

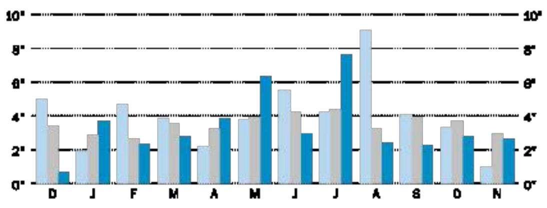


Statistics through 5 p.m. Friday

	National	Dulles	BWI
High	55° 12:16 a.m.	45° 3:27 a.m.	55° 1:00 a.m.
Low	19° 5:00 p.m.	16° 5:00 p.m.	15° 5:00 p.m.
Normal	47°/33°	45°/28°	46°/28°
Record high	71° 1990	68° 1990	69° 1990
Record low	7° 1989	4° 1989	0° 1960

Difference from 30–yr. avg. (National): this month: **–0.5°** yr. to date: **+0.2°**

Precipitation



	National	Dulles	BWI
Past 24 hours	0.59"	1.52"	1.01"
Total this month	3.68"	4.70"	4.49"
Normal	2.62"	2.54"	2.84"
Total this year	43.33"	40.51"	46.87"
Normal	41.03"	42.48"	44.13"
Snow, past 24 hours	Trace	Trace	Trace
Snow, season total	Trace	Trace	Trace

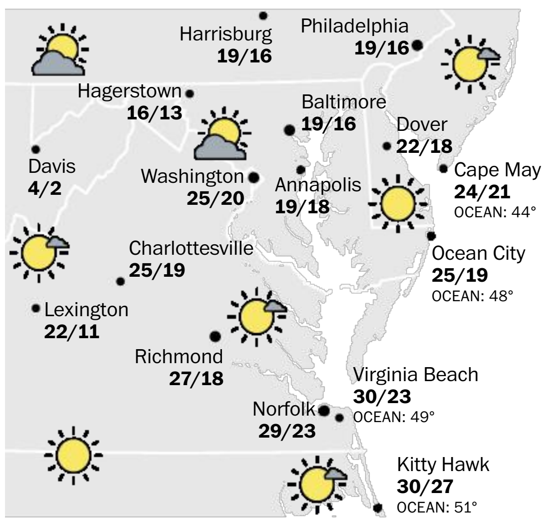
Moon Phases

Dec 29	Jan 6	Jan 14	Jan 21
First Quarter	Full	Last Quarter	New

Solar system

	Rise	Set
Sun	7:24 a.m.	4:51 p.m.
Moon	8:58 a.m.	6:12 p.m.
Venus	8:33 a.m.	5:57 p.m.
Mars	3:01 p.m.	6:03 a.m.
Jupiter	11:58 a.m.	11:57 p.m.
Saturn	10:21 a.m.	8:44 p.m.

REGION



Pollen: Low
Grass Low
Trees Low
Weeds Low
Mold Low

Air Quality: Good
Dominant cause: Particulates

UV: Low
2 out of 11+

Blue Ridge: Today, breezy. A snow shower in spots in northern parts; frigid in southern parts. Mostly sunny in central parts. High 12 to 16. Winds west 25–35 mph. Tonight, clear to partly cloudy; cold in southern parts. Low 8 to 13.

Atlantic beaches: Today, mostly sunny, breezy; very cold. High 23 to 29. Winds west-southwest 15–25 mph. Tonight, mainly clear. Low 19 to 23. Winds west-southwest 10–20 mph. Sunday, plenty of sun. High 31 to 36. Winds west 10–20 mph. Monday, sunshine.

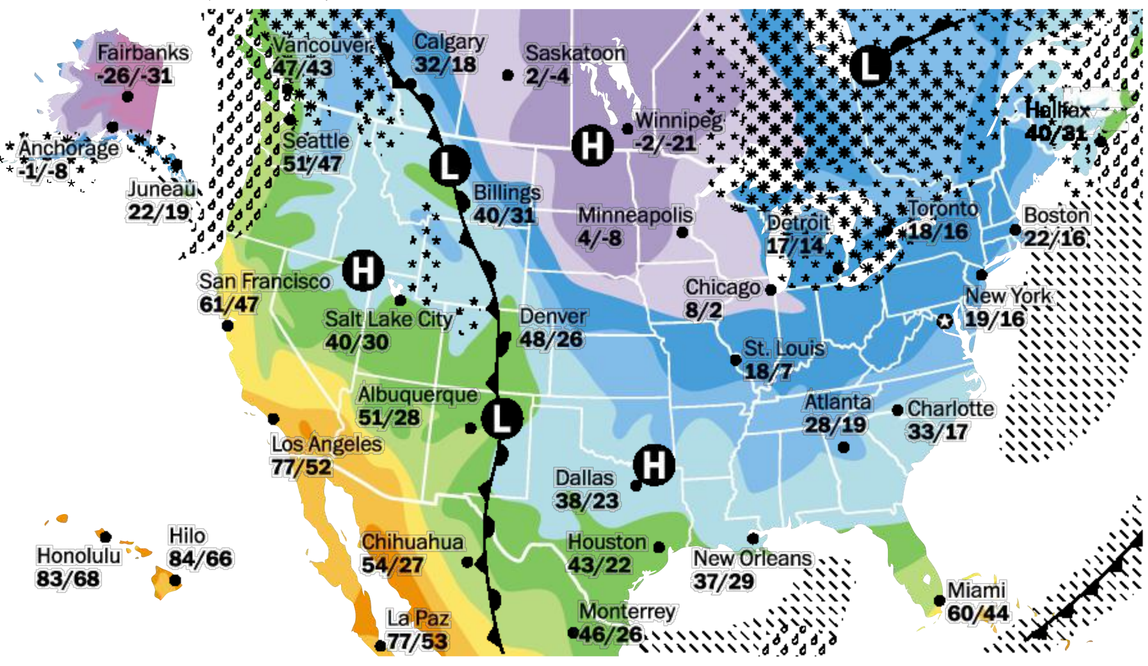
Waterways: *Upper Potomac River*: Today, plenty of sun. Wind west-southwest 10–20 knots. Waves 1–3 feet. Visibility clear to the horizon. • *Lower Potomac and Chesapeake Bay*: Today, sunny. Wind west 12–25 knots. Waves 1–3 feet on the Lower Potomac; 3–5 feet on the Chesapeake Bay.• *River Stages*: The stage at Little Falls will be around 4.70 feet today, rising to 7.40 Sunday. Flood stage at Little Falls is 10 feet.

Today's tides (High tides in **Bold**)

Washington	3:17 a.m.	**8:18 a.m.**	3:12 p.m.	**8:34 p.m.**
Annapolis	**4:47 a.m.**	11:15 a.m.	**6:20 p.m.**	none
Ocean City	1:22 a.m.	**7:52 a.m.**	2:23 p.m.	**8:11 p.m.**
Norfolk	3:22 a.m.	**9:52 a.m.**	4:21 p.m.	**10:13 p.m.**
Point Lookout	**1:08 a.m.**	6:56 a.m.	**2:04 p.m.**	9:17 p.m.

NATION

Weather map features for noon today.



T-storms Rain Showers Snow Flurries Ice Cold Front Warm Front Stationary Front

<-10 -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110+

Yesterday's National
High: Boca Raton, FL **84°**
Low: Potomac, MT **–49°**
for the 48 contiguous states

World
High: Villamontes, Bolivia **109°**
Low: Rabbit Kettle, Canada **–64°**
excludes Antarctica

NATIONAL	Today	Tomorrow
Albany, NY	15/11/c	26/14/pc
Albuquerque	51/28/s	49/30/pc
Anchorage	−1/−8/s	9/6/pc
Atlanta	28/19/s	34/20/s
Austin	40/20/s	48/28/s
Baltimore	19/16/pc	30/16/s
Billings, MT	40/31/pc	43/30/sh
Birmingham	28/16/pc	33/16/pc
Bismarck, ND	−3/−19/pc	28/−11/sn
Boise	34/31/c	37/33/c
Boston	22/16/pc	29/22/s
Buffalo	19/15/sn	25/16/c
Burlington, VT	16/14/c	24/19/sn
Charleston, SC	34/22/pc	42/22/s
Charleston, WV	16/12/c	22/11/s
Charlotte	33/17/s	37/18/s
Cheyenne, WY	43/31/pc	49/31/c
Chicago	8/2/pc	14/7/s
Cincinnati	16/6/c	18/10/s
Cleveland	13/10/sf	17/7/c
Dallas	38/23/s	45/28/s
Denver	48/26/pc	55/25/pc
Des Moines	6/−5/s	17/12/pc
Detroit	17/14/sn	22/11/c
El Paso	48/27/s	56/30/s
Fairbanks, AK	−26/−31/s	−24/−31/pc
Fargo, ND	−3/−24/s	2/−12/sn
Hartford, CT	19/14/pc	27/17/s
Honolulu	83/68/pc	82/68/pc
Houston	43/22/s	49/24/s
Indianapolis	14/3/c	16/11/s
Jackson, MS	29/20/s	38/18/pc
Jacksonville, FL	39/21/s	44/24/s
Kansas City, MO	19/4/pc	26/20/pc
Las Vegas	64/43/s	63/44/s
Little Rock	32/18/s	36/23/s
Los Angeles	77/52/s	80/53/s
Louisville	18/9/c	22/13/s
Memphis	26/18/s	30/22/s
Miami	60/44/pc	57/46/c
Milwaukee	10/3/c	13/7/s
Minneapolis	4/−8/s	6/1/sn
Nashville	23/14/pc	26/16/s
New Orleans	37/29/s	44/30/pc
New York City	19/16/pc	27/20/s
Norfolk	29/23/s	36/22/s
Oklahoma City	29/11/s	40/25/s
Omaha	12/−6/pc	26/13/pc
Orlando	46/29/s	47/33/c
Philadelphia	19/16/pc	29/19/s
Phoenix	70/45/s	71/45/s
Pittsburgh	11/8/c	15/9/pc
Portland, ME	21/14/pc	26/19/s
Portland, OR	52/46/r	56/47/c
Providence, RI	20/16/pc	29/19/pc
Raleigh, NC	31/17/s	38/15/s
Reno, NV	52/31/pc	54/36/pc
Richmond	27/18/s	36/17/s
Sacramento	57/39/pc	56/43/pc
St. Louis	18/7/pc	21/19/s
St. Thomas, VI	84/74/pc	85/74/s
Salt Lake City	40/30/c	39/32/c
San Diego	72/48/s	75/49/s
San Francisco	61/47/pc	60/49/pc
San Juan, PR	85/73/pc	85/74/sh
Seattle	51/47/r	50/47/sh
Spokane, WA	33/31/sn	39/33/r
Syracuse	15/12/sn	26/17/sn
Tampa	48/31/s	48/35/c
Wichita	26/6/s	34/22/pc

WORLD	Today	Tomorrow
Addis Ababa	74/47/pc	75/49/pc
Amsterdam	51/44/c	50/45/r
Athens	59/47/s	64/49/s
Auckland	75/60/pc	75/60/pc
Baghdad	60/46/c	63/46/s
Bangkok	87/69/s	85/68/pc
Beijing	37/15/s	35/16/c
Berlin	44/37/r	46/41/r
Bogota	68/48/s	67/49/c
Brussels	52/46/c	52/47/r
Buenos Aires	77/57/c	77/61/s
Cairo	67/56/s	66/56/sh
Caracas	74/62/pc	74/63/s
Copenhagen	37/36/c	42/40/r
Dakar	83/69/pc	82/70/c
Dublin	51/44/sh	50/31/sh
Edinburgh	48/43/c	49/33/sh
Frankfurt	53/43/sh	50/46/c
Geneva	56/42/r	54/44/pc
Ham., Bermuda	74/65/r	68/66/c
Helsinki	28/17/pc	27/22/c
Ho Chi Minh City	87/67/pc	87/69/pc
Hong Kong	69/58/s	67/57/s
Islamabad	66/35/pc	65/42/c
Istanbul	54/49/pc	54/43/pc
Jerusalem	56/45/sh	57/46/sh
Johannesburg	83/58/pc	84/59/c
Kabul	50/30/s	47/34/c
Kingston, Jam.	86/74/pc	86/76/pc
Kolkata	82/62/pc	82/61/pc
Kyiv	40/34/sn	36/30/sn
Lagos	87/72/c	86/73/s
Lima	76/66/pc	78/67/pc
Lisbon	65/58/c	61/52/r
London	52/48/c	52/41/c
Madrid	55/44/pc	59/38/pc
Manila	81/74/c	81/73/c
Mexico City	70/47/pc	61/47/sh
Montreal	19/17/sf	23/12/sf
Moscow	36/14/sn	23/7/c
Mumbai	87/69/pc	86/67/pc
Nairobi	80/60/pc	80/60/t
New Delhi	68/43/pc	66/44/pc
Oslo	11/8/pc	33/31/sn
Ottawa	21/15/sf	21/4/sf
Paris	54/48/c	55/49/r
Prague	50/38/c	44/38/c
Rio de Janeiro	79/72/pc	81/73/pc
Riyadh	73/47/s	69/53/s
Rome	64/47/c	64/47/pc
San Salvador	88/64/pc	87/65/pc
Santiago	90/57/s	86/56/s
Sarajevo	51/35/c	51/36/s
Seoul	25/12/s	31/14/s
Shanghai	43/28/s	48/29/pc
Singapore	84/75/t	85/75/sh
Stockholm	22/14/pc	31/30/c
Sydney	87/67/s	81/68/pc
Taipei City	61/48/pc	65/52/pc
Tehran	41/34/r	48/36/pc
Tokyo	54/41/s	52/40/s
Toronto	18/16/sf	27/16/sf
Vienna	55/39/c	46/37/c
Warsaw	40/35/r	44/36/c

Key: **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **r**-rain, **sh**- showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice

Sources: **AccuWeather.com**; US Army Centralized Allergen Extract Lab (pollen data); airnow.gov (air quality data); National Weather Service

* AccuWeather's **RealFeel Temperature®** combines over a dozen factors for an accurate measure of how the conditions really "feel."

Christmas display pays tribute to neighbor

LIGHTS FROM **B1**

COURTESY OF MIKE WITMER

ABOVE: Kevin has been included in Mike Witmer's Christmas display for 20 years. BELOW: Witmer sets up his lights in 2021.

But to Kevin's family, it was very meaningful. They were delighted, Witmer said, and Kevin earnestly asked if Witmer would put his name in lights every year.

"I was like, 'how could I not?'" Witmer recalled.

The following year, he shifted the sign from "Get Well Kevin" to "Hi Kevin." To make it exciting for the boy, Witmer painted "Hi Kevin" on scrap pieces of wood, then hid them around his Christmas display. Every year, Kevin would try to spot them. It became a fun game between the two of them.

"He was such a cool kid," Witmer said. "He could talk to anybody. Even with his cancer, he would never let it get to him or get him down."

When Kevin's cancer eventually went into remission, "I continued the tribute," Witmer said.

Sadly, though, after Kevin completed his freshman year at the University of Maryland, his cancer came back "harder and stronger," Witmer said. "That's what eventually took him."

He died in June 2010, and Witmer spoke at his funeral — at the request of Kevin's parents.

In his speech, Witmer vowed to make his annual "Hi Kevin" display bigger than ever, so that his beloved neighbor could see it from heaven. Witmer kept his promise.

Every year since, he has included Kevin in his Christmas display. His heart swells when Kevin's family and friends stop by to see it.

"Thank you for keeping his memory alive," they tell Witmer, who still keeps in touch with Kev-

in's family, although they no longer live in the neighborhood, he said. "That response is more incentive to keep doing it."

In past years, Witmer has shared the "Hi Kevin" story on social media, but this year it got unprecedented attention.

"Maybe the world just needed it," he said.

In a Facebook post on Dec. 7, he chronicled the touching tale.

"Maybe someone will read this story and take a smile away from it," he remembered thinking. "That's all I can hope."

"I don't know what's hardest to believe," Witmer wrote in the post. "That he's been gone for 12 years or that I've been including his name in my display for 20 years now."

"Either way," he continued, "I love sharing this story."

Comments poured in — most of which were from strangers around the world, expressing gratitude for the soul-affirming story. Witmer has read each one — and responded to many.

"This is one of the most beautiful tributes I've ever read," one person wrote.

"Bawling like a baby, what a very special story," another commenter added. "Thank you for sharing it, and for your lovely heart."

Witmer is stunned by the response.

"The reaction is just overwhelming in such a good way," he said, adding that Kevin's family is not ready to talk publicly about their son. "It's been humbling."

Witmer's greatest wish, he said, "is for people to see that it's always the small things that mean the most."

THE DISTRICT

Mother arrested for outburst after officers' convictions in son's death

BY PETER HERMANN

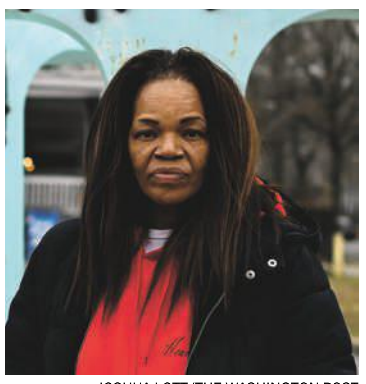
When the guilty verdicts that Karen Hylton had sought for more than two years finally arrived, she could not contain herself.

The 54-year-old rose from her seat in federal court Wednesday afternoon to confront the two D.C. police officers convicted in the 2020 pursuit that killed her son, Karon Hylton-Brown — both of them for obstructing justice, and one of them for second-degree murder. In an obscenity-laced condemnation, she said, she tried to tell them they were "done tormenting our community."

Deputy U.S. marshals carried the mother out of the federal courtroom as she tussled with them. She was arrested and detained overnight, accused of assaulting a federal police officer.

The episode was another volatile chapter in an emotionally charged case that strained community relations with law enforcement and fueled destructive protests at the 4th District D.C. police station. Hylton-Brown's death, which came at a time of raw racial tensions nationwide after the police killing of George Floyd in Minneapolis, renewed debates in the city over policing practices, crime and race.

Earlier in the nearly two-month trial, the judge had ejected Hylton for openly sobbing during testimony. Hylton, who was released from custody on Thursday, made no apologies for her behavior. In an interview with The Washington Post, she said the raw emotion was real. But she said she was also trying to make a point about a rare conviction of a police officer for actions while performing official duties.



JOSHUA LOTT/THE WASHINGTON POST

"The message I'm sending is they can't get away with it," Karen Hylton said Thursday.

"The message I'm sending is they can't get away with it," Hylton said.

A spokeswoman for the U.S. attorney's office for the District said that no charges were filed but that the investigation is continuing. A spokesman for the U.S. Marshals Service declined to comment.

In the interview, shortly after her release, Hylton denied assaulting a deputy marshal. "These officers killed my child and lied about it," she said of the two D.C. officers found guilty. "Then on the same day the verdicts came out, they locked me up and lied about it."

The jury deliberated five days before finding Officer Terence Sutton and Lt. Andrew Zabavsky, who are White, guilty of conspiracy and obstruction of justice. Jurors also convicted Sutton of second-degree murder.

Prosecutors said the officers violated department policy in what they described as an illegally reckless pursuit of Hylton-Brown, who is Black, in Northwest Washington in October 2020. As Hylton-Brown tried to elude the officers on a rented moped, authorities have said, he collided with a vehicle when he emerged from an alley and was fatally injured.

Zabavsky was not charged directly in Hylton-Brown's death. But prosecutors said he and Sutton tried to cover up the pursuit and the seriousness of the crash. Sutton's attorney, J. Michael Hannon, argued the chase was justified because the officers believed Hylton-Brown was about to commit a crime.

Sutton and Zabavsky were freed to await sentencing, which has not been scheduled. Hannon declined to comment on Brown's assertions or the verdict. One of Zabavsky's attorneys, Christopher A. Zampogna, issued a statement Friday saying in part: "While we, like many, were surprised and disappointed by the findings of the jury, we are confident that justice will be served in the post-verdict process, including appeal."

D.C. Police Chief Robert J. Contee III said Thursday that "there will be officers who will take this and think about what happened." He said the department will now work to conclude an administrative review of the incident that could result in both officers being fired.

Mayor Muriel E. Bowser (D) said, "I wasn't on the jury, so I have to respect what the jury's verdict is."

Hylton, who was on the front lines of volatile demonstrations at the 4th District police station in 2020 after her son was killed and also got arrested there, said the guilty verdicts did not surprise her. Of Sutton in particular, she said: "We knew he was guilty. We just needed somebody to put a stamp on it."

Subscriber Exclusives
The Washington Post

Let's cut to the chase: Free tickets to White Ford Bronco on December 31 at The Lincoln Theatre

Long a mere dream kicking around in the overactive imaginations of its founders, White Ford Bronco officially came into being in the spring of 2008, named after the infamous automobile O.J. Simpson rode in during his car chase with Los Angeles police. Since then, its five-member ensemble has been sparking bouts of flannel-laden, slap-bracelet-snapping, pog-playing, big-butt-loving nostalgia across the Washington, D.C. area. Whatever the flavor – be it alternative, rock, pop, R&B, hip-hop, or country – if its '90s, they'll play it.

See details at washingtonpost.com/my-post.

The Washington Post

STYLE

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022 · SECTION C

EZ RE

The village of sentient snowmen

ILLUSTRATION BY GUS MORAIS

This year, we're visiting a village of real live snowpeople! See if you can spot all 72 of them, but beware of a few impostors among the crowd. You can also try this and previous Christmas puzzles online at **wapo.st/snowmen-search**. Answer key on **C2**.

A wonderful victory for small theaters

Ann Hornaday

Since 1974, when a copyright lapse sent it into the public domain, the 1946 Frank Capra drama "It's a Wonderful Life" has been a Christmas classic, largely because it offered free programming for television stations. Over two decades, the uplifting story of George Bailey (James Stewart) overcoming suicidal despair with the help of a guardian angel became the quintessential Christmas movie, replete with a suitably evil villain — the heartless banker Mr. Potter — and wholesome, heartwarming romance, by way of George's loyal and resourceful wife, Mary, played by Donna Reed.

For the past 15 years, Mary Owen — Reed's youngest daughter — has been appearing at annual screenings in small independent theaters that have become a cherished seasonal ritual throughout the country. "It's become a tradition," she said recently from her home in Iowa City, 200 miles from where her mother grew up in Denison, Iowa.

But that tradition faced an existential threat on a par with George Bailey's earlier this year, when some small theaters thought they wouldn't be able to play "It's a Wonderful Life." Although several venues were able to book the film as usual, others say they were told they wouldn't have access to it until January, after an exclusive run sponsored by Fathom Events, Turner Classic Movies and distributor Paramount Pictures.

"The first time I heard about it, I thought, 'We have left Bedford Falls,'" recalls Owen, referring to the fictional town where Bailey grows up and, by the end of the film, discovers

SEE **HORNADAY** ON **C2**

Journalists' Twitter saga is not over

BY PAUL FARHI

Twitter owner Elon Musk said last week that the journalists he abruptly suspended for alleged rule violations were welcome to rejoin the platform after only two days on the sidelines. "The people have spoken," he tweeted following a poll that strongly favored restoring the accounts.

But Musk didn't mention that there was a catch.

Twitter has privately demanded that the suspended journalists delete the tweets that drew Musk's ire in the first place — a condition the reporters have refused to accept.

The result is a stalemate: The suspended journalists remain in Twitter purgatory, unable to access their accounts.

The tweets in question mentioned or linked to a Twitter account called @ElonJet, which tracked the whereabouts of Musk's private jet using publicly available flight data. All of the journalists were covering or commenting on Musk's decision to banish the account, which he said threatened his family's safety by tracking his movements.

None of the journalists' tweets about @ElonJet, however, disclosed information about Musk or his jet's location, despite Musk's claim that the journalists had posted "assassination coordinates."

The reporters maintain that their tweets were part of their reporting activities and didn't violate any rules about "doxing," the unsavory practice of posting personal information without permission. Accepting Musk's demand for deletion, they say, would amount to a false admission of wrongdoing and an abdication to Musk's subjective enforcement. They remain suspended.

"The rules are arbitrary and capricious," said Steve Herman,

SEE **TWITTER** ON **C4**

ANN HORNADAY

Saga of small theaters mirrors storyline of the classic 'It's a Wonderful Life'

HORNADAY FROM **C1**

that he has been a force for good all along. When she heard that her local nonprofit art house, FilmScene, might be barred from showing "It's a Wonderful Life," she was incensed.

"I've been part of this momentum of showing the movie in small, independent theaters since 2007, and it's become a tradition," said Owen, 65, who moved to Iowa in 2020 to help organize her mother's centennial. Preventing small theaters from showing "It's a Wonderful Life," she says, "goes completely against the essence of the movie" and its ideals of community, generosity and self-sacrifice.

It's tempting to see George Baileys and Mr. Potters at every turn in a story that possesses uncanny parallels with "It's a Wonderful Life," in which mom-and-pop values manage to overcome profit-driven commercialism. But it's not always as clear-cut as it seems. Life, while often wonderful, is just as likely to be ambiguous, contradictory and a little messy around the edges.

But a shared moral of both tales is that, for mom and pop to prevail, they have to stand up for themselves.

After conversations with Fathom and Paramount, FilmScene eventually joined the Fathom event, which took place in more than 1,000 theaters from Dec. 18 through Dec. 21. Some venues followed suit, while others took to the streets — literally. After initially being told she couldn't play "It's a Wonderful Life," Ellen Elliott, executive director of Friends of the Penn, which runs the nonprofit Penn Theatre in Plymouth, Mich., says she discovered that the Alabama Theatre in Birmingham had received an exemption. "I'm like, what?!" Elliott recalled recently, adding that when she did some digging, she found out other theaters in Michigan had also received exemptions. "Anybody who knows me knows I'm not going to lie down," Elliott noted. "Fathom does this with films all the time — we wanted to book 'Planes, Trains and Automobiles' at Thanksgiving, and that had a moratorium, too. But 'It's a Wonderful Life'? No. You don't do that with this film."

On Oct. 26, Elliott sent a text and Facebook post encouraging Penn patrons to show up to the next day's screening of "Abbott and Costello Meet Frankenstein" for a group photo in front of the Penn with the message "Please preserve our community tradition" on its marquee.

"I wasn't sure what was going to happen, but people came and they kept coming," Elliott recalled, estimating that as many as 1,000 people showed up to the rally. "It was just like the end of 'It's a Wonderful Life,' where everybody comes to George's house. … We got amazing pictures of the crowds, our NBC affiliate was there. They had reached out to Paramount twice that day, and they never responded. But the next afternoon, I got an email [from the studio] saying, 'We're happy to book this for you.'"

Since October, more theaters have been given the go-ahead to play "It's a Wonderful Life," but not all were so lucky. Chris Collier, executive director at Renew Theaters, which manages four nonprofit theaters in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, says he received an email from Paramount in August saying the film would be "out of release this holiday season due to the upcoming Fathom event." He simply took no for an answer and moved on. "We're small, and we're still short-staffed from the pandemic," Collier explains. "On one level, it wasn't worth our staff time to fight a losing battle. The flip side is that the amount of time we could have invested lobbying Paramount, we're now spending communicating with disappointed patrons about why we're not playing 'It's a Wonderful Life.'"

As for who plays Mr. Potter in this story, no one is willing to accept the role. Fathom Events CEO Ray Nutt insists that the company made an exception to its usual policy of demanding exclusivity, allowing more than 300 independent theaters to show "It's a Wonderful Life" alongside the multiplexes that compose the bulk of its network (Fathom is owned by the three biggest theater chains in the United States: AMC, Regal and Cinemark). The Fathom engagement has been a box office success: When it ended on Wednesday, "It's a Wonderful Life" had earned more than $1.4 million and a spot in the week's top performers. And the movie had attracted more than 117,000 filmgoers, a reminder that in many towns, suburbs and exurbs, the multiplex *is* the community theater.

Paramount declined to comment directly, sending a statement through a spokesperson that any theater that wants to play "It's a Wonderful Life" is able to play it — an assertion that raises the question of whether every time a Hollywood studio tries to dodge a potential PR crisis, an angel gets his wings.

For Elliott, in Plymouth, Mich., the saga of "It's a Wonderful Life" this year demonstrates the fragility of a theatrical ecosystem in which small, independent theaters are chronically at risk — even though they often demonstrated creativity and nimbleness in hanging on to audiences during the pandemic shutdown. "When a multiplex is allowed to take something that was born and originally shown in these little theaters and they're restricted from it, you're killing the little guy," she says. "The small-town theater is being almost treated the same way as a multiplex, and it's not the same. The distributors need to understand that."

At a time when nostalgia and fan loyalty are increasingly butting up against the realities of private ownership — of everything from popular HBO programs to Twitter — "It's a Wonderful Life" occupies a singular place in the collective psyche as something owned by everyone, a product of Bedford Falls, not Pottersville. Owen, who recently introduced the film at the IFC Center in Manhattan, said this year's screenings were imbued with a different spirit than in years past.

"There was an exuberance I haven't felt for a long time," she said, adding that in addition to the post-pandemic joy of being together in a theater, something more aspirational was going on. "The universality of this movie is kind of unbelievable," Owen said. "I also think it speaks to this idea of community that we really have lost. We've become so divided. People probably do recognize Pottersville as more of what we're living in now, but they really do want to treat each other better."

PETE MUNDT

The operators of the nonprofit Penn Theatre in Plymouth, Mich., were successful in getting permission to screen "It's a Wonderful Life" after rallying the community.

RKO/KOBAL/SHUTTERSTOCK

At center, Donna Reed and James Stewart during the final scene of 1946's holiday classic "It's a Wonderful Life." Reed's daughter Mary Owen has worked to get the film screened in small theaters.

Answers to the snowmen Christmas puzzle

The locations of the 72 snowmen on our cover illustration are shown below.

Dating people from close-knit families unravels angst because of reader's past

Carolyn Hax

Adapted from an online discussion.

NICK GALIFIANAKIS FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Dear Carolyn: My family is really dysfunctional. I've made peace with it, except for when I date someone from a big, happy, close family, which just highlights the weirdness, such as when they ask what they think are harmless questions, and I'm left either dodging them or answering: "No, I don't have a favorite food my mom makes, because she stopped cooking after my dad threw a hot casserole at her when I was 9, so it was cold sandwiches until I learned to cook." Or: "Nope, I don't see my dad on Father's Day. My visit would interfere with his drinking." Or: "No, we don't really have holiday traditions, because my mom joined so many weird cults."

At first I tried telling the truth, because a therapist once said to "own" my past, but that was so awkward. Lately, I've been dodging, and it's exhausting.

So I've decided not to date anyone unless they come from a similar background. My friend says that's an "incredibly limiting and self-destructive choice," but I don't see another option. Do you?

— *Exhausted*

Exhausted: I do, and I agree with your friend.

There is vast acreage between dodging completely and telling entire truths every time. For Father's Day queries: "Not a big thing in my family." It's a truth, complete unto itself, and covers a functional family that skips Hallmark holidays, or a "really dysfunctional" one. Only you know the difference until you choose to share.

Same with favorite foods from Mom: "Sandwiches? Mom didn't cook." True, and true *enough.* People aren't as attentive to your history as you are.

Or tell truths without the sledgehammer: "Mom joining cults was our tradition. My childhood was … 'interesting.'" [Air quotes.]

I'm thinking you know this, though — and maybe your erf-it-I'm-done-with-happy-families is less about what to say than how to stop being constantly reminded of the chances you didn't have.

And if so? Absolutely fair.

But, back to your friend's observation: Denying yourself an entire category of people — one that almost by definition *won't reenact your family trauma on you* — seems like a permanent, self-defeating fix to a temporary problem.

Last thing: Close families have their weird, too. They're people. Can't help themselves. You fit in more than you think.

Last last thing: A healthy, compassionate family will welcome you and not treat you like an exhibit.

Readers say:

• Do yourself a favor, and date the happy family! You are worthy, regardless of your parents' choices. I dated dysfunction for years so I wouldn't be rejected by healthy families. Thank goodness I didn't marry until I realized I belonged at a healthy table, too. My husband's family welcomed me, even with my extended family struggles. Hugs to you, friend!

• Stick to people who take you at your word about the weirdness. I have a family of real oddballs, and I wouldn't date anyone who said, "Oh, that couldn't really have happened," or, "I'm sure they meant well."

• When I want to give the straight dope on my crappy family, it's usually because I'm sad, insecure, jealous or angry — but, most of all, resentful — that others didn't have to grow up with the kind of abuse I experienced. When I can accept that none of what happened to me was my fault? I don't feel that need to slam on the conversation brakes with a shocker about my mom. Resentment is not something you want to bring into *any* relationship; might be worth exploring what triggers it. And if you need to hear it: You *do* deserve to be happy.

Write to Carolyn Hax at *tellme@washpost.com*. Get her column delivered to your inbox each morning at *wapo.st/gethax*.

Join the discussion live at noon Fridays at *washingtonpost.com/live-chats*.

the GUIDE to the Lively Arts

SHOW NAME		DATES & TIMES	DESCRIPTION	DETAILS	PRICE	ADDITIONAL
OPERA						
Bel Cantanti Opera	Amahl and the Night Visitors	Friday, December 30 at 7:30 p.m.	Trinity Lutheran Church 11200 Old Georgetown Rd. Rockville, MD	Complete show details at www.belcantanti.com	$40. $25	Tickets available online and at the door

The Guide to the Lively Arts appears: • Sunday in Arts & Style. deadline: Tues., 12 noon
• Monday in Style. deadline: Friday, 12 noon • Tuesday in Style. deadline: Mon., 12 noon • Wednesday in Style. deadline: Tues., 12 noon
• Thursday in Style. deadline: Wed., 12 noon • Friday in Weekend. deadline: Tues., 12 noon • Saturday in Style. deadline: Friday, 12 noon
For information about advertising, call: Raymond Boyer 202-334-4174 or Robin Wilkerson 202-334-7089
To reach a representative, call: 202-334-7006 | guidetoarts@washpost.com
22-0776

TELEVISION

WEEKEND TV HIGHLIGHTS

DAN SMITH/NETFLIX

Roald Dahl's Matilda the Musical (Netflix starting Sunday) Extraordinary Matilda (Alisha Weir, center) stands up to the oppressive adults in her life.

SATURDAY

MOVIES

Love Actually (BBC America at 6 & 9) This holiday classic focuses on nine intertwined stories about love during Christmas, starring Hugh Grant, Alan Rickman, Colin Firth, Emma Thompson, Liam Neeson and Keira Knightley.

Gremlins (CMTV at 6:30 & 11) An adorably terrifying gang of gremlins terrorize a town after being exposed to bright light, water or being fed after midnight.

The Grinch (FX at 8 & 10) In the 2018 version of this film, the Grinch vows to finally silence the Whos' holiday cheer, with help from his loyal dog, Max.

SUNDAY

SPECIALS

Disney Parks Magical Christmas Day Parade (ABC at 10 a.m.) This Christmas parade includes Derek Hough, Julianne Hough, Black Eyed Peas, Chloe Flower, David Foster, Katharine McPhee, Maren Morris, Meghan Trainor, Ne-Yo and Il Volo

MINISERIES

The Witcher: Blood Origin (Netflix) Over a thousand years before "The Witcher," seven outcasts in the elf world join together to fight an unstoppable power.

MOVIES

It's a Wonderful Life (E! All day starting at 6 a.m.) After getting his wish to never be born, a man realizes how different the world would be if he weren't in it.

Happy Feet (BBC America at 2) An adorable, tone-deaf emperor penguin must express himself through dance to attract a mate, as his voice surely isn't going to do it.

Elf (AMC at 6) After accidentally growing up at the North Pole, Buddy the Elf (Will Ferrell) heads to New York to start a relationship with his grouchy birth father (James Caan).

National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation (AMC at 8) Clark Griswold's (Chevy Chase) holiday plans go awry when his country cousin and his family encroach on Griswold's perfect holiday.

A Christmas Story (TNT at 9 & TBS at 10) Follow the exploits of young Ralphie Parker as he avoids a bully, bickers with his dad and dreams of the perfect Christmas gift.

The Boy, the Mole, the Fox and the Horse (Apple TV Plus) A heartfelt short film that follows the friendship between a boy, a mole, a fox and a horse who travel together to find the boy's home, starring Idris Elba, Tom Hollander, Gabriel Byrne and Jude Coward Nicoll.

— Olivia McCormack

BROADCAST CHANNELS

12/24/22	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
4.1 WRC (NBC)	Paid Program	1st Look	Movie: It's a Wonderful Life ★★★★ (1946)						**News**	**Christmas**
4.2 WRC (IND)	Emergency!		Columbo				Columbo			
5.1 WTTG (Fox)	◆ **NFL Football**	◆ **The OT**	◆ LEGO Masters				**Fox 5 News at 10**		**News**	◆ Hell's Kitchen
7.1 WJLA (ABC)	DraftKings	◆ Jeopardy!	◆ Movie: Home Alone ★★★ (1990)				◆ Funniest Home Videos		**News**	◆ **Come**
9.1 WUSA (CBS)	**Bensinger**	DraftKings	◆ Mariah Carey: Merry Christmas to All!				◆ 48 Hours		**9 News**	Magnum P.I.
14.1 WFDC (UNI)	◆ **Vecinos**	◆ Vecinos	◆ Familia Diez	◆ Familia Diez	◆ Movie: The Nativity Story ★★ (2006)				◆ Nosotros los.	◆ **Noticiero**
20.1 WDCA (MNTV)	**Fox 5 News On the Plus**		◆ Family Feud	◆ Family Feud	Mod Fam	Mod Fam	The Book of Sean		Tammi Mac	
22.1 WMPT (PBS)	◆ O Holy Night: Christmas		Artworks		Hope Street		Christmas at DePaul		Holiday Handbells	
26.1 WETA (PBS)	WETA Arts		Performance/White House		◆ Mary-Christmas		◆ Lucy Worsley's 12		WETA Arts	
32.1 WHUT (PBS)	◆ **Weekend**	Spirits	Movie: Buttons: A Christmas Tale (2018)			All Is Bright	20 Years of Christmas With the Tabernacle Choir			
50.1 WDCW (CW)	(6:00) A Christmas Village		◆ Christmas Around the World				**DC News Now**		9-1-1	
66.1 WPXW (ION)	A Prince and Pauper		Movie: Christmas Matchmakers (2019)				Movie: The Search for Secret Santa (2022)			

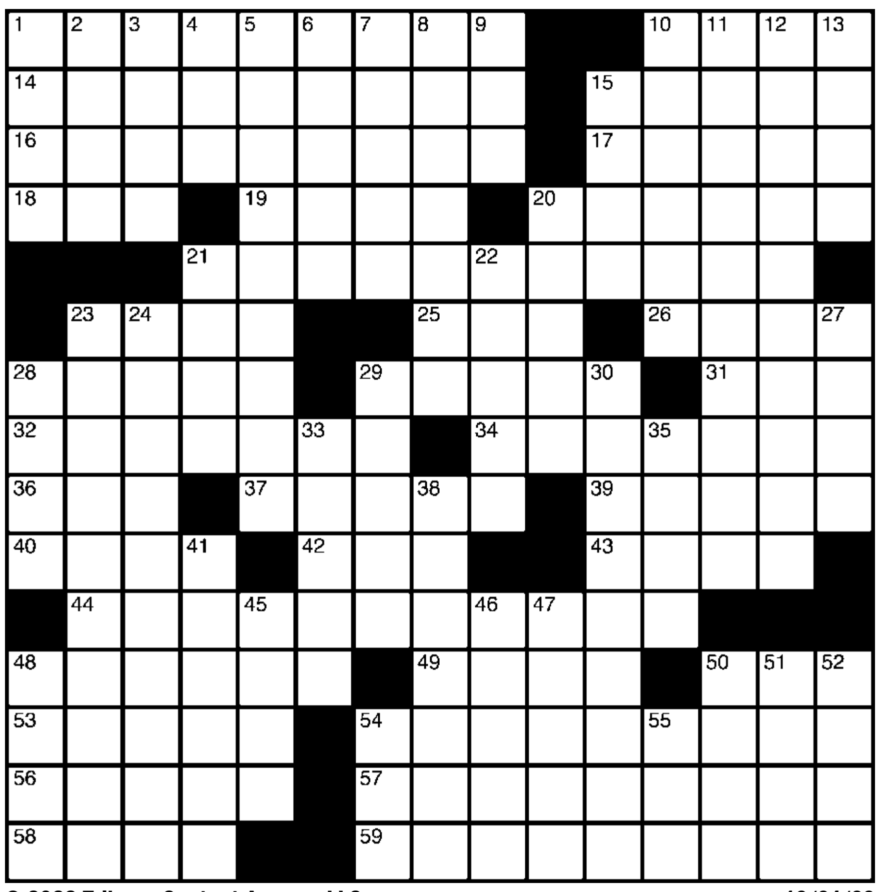
CABLE CHANNELS

Channel	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
A&E	(5:00) Movie: Jack Reacher		Movie: Jack Reacher: Never Go Back ★★ (2016)					(10:32) Movie: Jack Reacher ★★ (2012)		
AMC	(6:00) Four Christmases		Movie: Elf ★★★ (2003)				Movie: National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation ★★★			
Animal Planet	Crikey! It's the Irwins		Crikey! It's the Irwins		Crikey! It's the Irwins		Crikey! It's the Irwins		Crikey! It's the Irwins	
BET	(3:30) The Temptations		**Gospel Superfest**		David & Tamela Mann		Movie: Boo! A Madea Halloween ★★ (2016)			
Bravo	(6:00) Movie: Just Friends		Movie: Just Go With It ★★ (2011)					Movie: Just Friends ★★ (2005)		
Cartoon Network	Teen Titans	Teen Titans	Regular Show	Scooby-Doo	Futurama	Futurama	American	American	American	Rick, Morty
CNN	(6:00) The Nineties		The Eighties				The Seventies		Tis The Season:	
Comedy Central	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
Discovery	Expedition Unknown		Expedition Unknown		Expedition Unknown		Expedition Unknown		Expedition Unknown	
Disney	Mickey's Twice Upon		Raven	Raven	Jessie	Movie: Christmas...Again?! (2021)			(11:15) Stuck in the Middle	
E!	Movie: The Goonies ★★★ (1985)					Movie: The Goonies ★★★ (1985)				
ESPN	(5:30) Movie: **Safety**		**College Football**: EasyPost Hawaii Bowl: Middle Tennessee State vs San Diego State (Live)							**SportCtr**
ESPN2	**SC Feat.**	Dickie V			SC Featured	**E60**		**Vince's**	**Eli**	**Peyton's**
Food Network	Christmas Cookie Challenge		Christmas Cookie Challenge		Christmas Cookie Challenge		Christmas Cookie Challenge		Christmas Cookie Challenge	
Fox News	The Great Christmas Debate		West Point Holiday Special		All American Christmas		Who Can Forget Christmas?		West Point Holiday Special	
Freeform	Frosty	(7:20) Movie: The Santa Clause ★★★ (1994)				Movie: The Santa Clause 2 ★★ (2002)				
FX	(6:00) Despicable Me 3 ★★		Movie: The Grinch ★★ (2018)				Movie: The Grinch ★★ (2018)			
Hallmark	(6:00) Jolly Good Christmas		Movie: A Holiday Spectacular (2022)				Movie: Haul Out the Holly (2022)			
Hallmark M&M	Time for Us to Come Home		Movie: Time for Them to Come Home for Christmas				Movie: Time for Him to Come Home for Christmas (2022)			
HBO	DC League of Super-Pets		Movie: Black Adam ★★ (2022)				(10:06) Movie: Man of Steel ★★ (2013)			
HGTV	Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It		Love It or List It	
History	(6:00) The Bible		The Bible				(10:05) The Bible			
Lifetime	(6:00) Dear Christmas (2020)		Movie: The 12 Days of Christmas Eve (2022)				(10:03) Movie: A Christmas Spark (2022)			
MASN	(6:30) Orioles Classics				Orioles Classics					
MSNBC	The Culture Is: Latina		Stories-Fertility Secret		Loan Wolves				Movie: Paper & Glue (2021)	
MTV	(6:00) Movie: Scrooged		Movie: Bad Santa ★★★ (2003)				Movie: Bad Santa 2 ★★ (2016)			
Nat'l Geographic	Superstructures: Engineer.		Superstructures: Engineer.		**Making the Disney Wish: Disney's**			**Animal**	**Cesar**	Making
NBC SportsNet WA	**Commanders**		Greatest	NHL Hockey: Winnipeg Jets at Washington Capitals					Pure Outdoor	Commanders
Nickelodeon	Movie: A Loud House Christmas (2021)			Loud House	**Loud**	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
NWSN	**NewsNation Prime**		**NewsNation Prime**		**NewsNation Prime**		NewsNation Prime		NewsNation Prime	
PARMT	Movie: Raiders of the Lost Ark ★★★★ (1981)					(9:35) Movie: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade ★★★ (1989)				
Syfy	(6:00) Movie: Cult of Chucky		Movie: Krampus ★★ (2015)				Movie: Jeepers Creepers 3 (2017)			
TBS	Big Bang	Big Bang	Movie: A Christmas Story ★★★★ (1983)				Movie: A Christmas Story ★★★★ (1983)			
TCM	(6:00) Meet Me in St. Louis		Movie: The Bishop's Wife ★★★ (1947)				Movie: A Christmas Carol ★★★ (1938)			Meet John
TLC	Dr. Pimple Popper		Dr. Pimple Popper		Dr. Pimple Popper		Dr. Pimple Popper		Dr. Pimple Popper	
TNT	Movie: Bad Moms ★★ (2016)				Movie: A Christmas Story ★★★★ (1983)				Movie: A Christmas Story	
Travel	Ghost Brothers: Lights Out		Ghost Brothers: Lights Out		**Ghost Brothers: Lights**		**Haunted Scotland**		Haunted Scotland	
TruTV	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper	Mr. Cooper
TV Land	Mom	Mom	Mom	Mom	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men	Two Men
TV One	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford	Sanford
USA Network	Harry Potter	Movie: Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 ★★★ (2010)						Harry Potter and Deathly Hallows		
VH1	(6:00) Friday After Next ★		Movie: Next Friday ★★ (2000)				Movie: Friday ★★★ (1995)			
WNC8	**ABC News**	Govt. Matters	(8:01) **The Con**				**News**	WJLA News	**Attkisson**	Armstrong

LEGEND: Bold indicates new or live programs ◆ High Definition Movie Ratings (from TMS) ★★★★ Excellent ★★★ Good ★★ Fair ★ Poor No stars: not rated

LA TIMES CROSSWORD

By Juliana Tringali Golden & Kate Chin Park



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ACROSS

1 Confines, theatrically
10 Tech site with a "track prices" browser plug-in
14 Rank and file
15 Give up
16 "I'm sunk!"
17 Snoring cause
18 Misery
19 Both parents, in some families
20 Heist series title word
21 "Let me have it"
23 Plot
25 "A plateau is the highest form of flattery," e.g.
26 Father
28 Chess player Krush who is the only American woman Grandmaster
29 Enviable trait
31 "Wipe your paws" spot
32 Turn to
34 Stands to take a picture?
36 Back on board
37 Meryl's "Mary Poppins Returns" role
39 State capital?
40 Old Italian 39-Across
42 Trojan leader?
43 Scrapes (by)
44 Doll featured in many unboxing videos on YouTube
48 "We're dying to know!"
49 Grandly appointed
50 Zoom appt.
53 "Perfect!"
54 Eucalyptus lover, familiarly
56 Stadium strata
57 Tragic dancer of French literature
58 One could be a lot
59 Film starring Himesh Patel as the only person in the world who remembers the Beatles

DOWN

1 Soften
2 "No regrets" initialism
3 Nap on a carpet, e.g.
4 Prefix with -phenomenalism
5 Explorer trained at the Gagarin Center in Star City
6 Metallic mixture
7 Replay tech
8 Tough calls
9 Go unused
10 Piccata need
11 Singer who said, "Sometimes I sound like gravel, and sometimes I sound like coffee and cream"
12 Foundation of a barter system
13 Oolong and pu-erh
15 Home of the Baylor Bears
20 Title holder
21 Ranks in judo
22 Out of shape
23 Social image?
24 Grooming aid that might gather dust
27 Site with artisan shops
28 Onetime macOS scheduling app
29 Stock phrase
30 Home for the holidays?
33 Flower sacred in Buddhism and Hinduism
35 Dish whose name means "to slice" in Hawaiian
38 Take as a given
41 Draw
45 Root (out)
46 Wanders
47 Dot on a map
48 "Cheerio!"
50 Canasta play
51 "See what I did there?"
52 Overcast
54 Solution
55 Setting for many a joke

FRIDAY'S LA TIMES SOLUTION

S	L	A	B		C	A	S	H		I	B	M	P	C
H	O	S	E		A	C	H	E		M	E	A	R	A
T	A	K	E	A	F	T	E	R		P	A	G	E	R
E	D	I	F	I	E	S		A	L	L	U	R	E	
T	U	N	E	R			P	L	A	Y	T	I	M	E
L	P	G	A		L	A	U	D	S			T	I	L
			T	O	E	R	R		S	Y	S	T	E	M
		C	E	N	T	E	R	P	I	E	C	E		
F	L	A	R	E	S		I	R	E	N	A			
L	I	T			L	A	N	E	S		R	A	S	P
U	P	C	O	M	I	N	G			B	Y	S	E	A
	R	O	L	L	E	D		T	O	U	G	H	E	R
L	I	N	D	A		C	O	O	K	B	O	O	K	S
E	N	D	E	D		U	R	G	E		O	R	E	O
A	G	O	N	Y		T	R	O	D		D	E	R	N

A redemption arc, even for Scut Farkus

BY TOMMY CUMMINGS

Zack Ward appreciates stories of redemption. In "A Christmas Story Christmas," a sequel to the 1983 classic, his redheaded character, Scut Farkus, who once bullied and tormented the neighborhood kids, has profoundly changed.

But Ward still has fond memories of bad-boy roles, including one notable one from 1997. It was when he knocked out Chuck Norris in an episode of "Walker, Texas Ranger."

Okay, Ward didn't actually KO Norris, whose tough-guy status is a carefully guarded legend.

In an episode titled "Mr. Justice," Ward played "Mad Dog" Sullivan, a juvenile delinquent who snuck in from behind and conked Texas Ranger Cordell Walker, Norris's character, on the head with a tree branch.

"I'm hiding up in the tree, and I jumped down behind him, and I totally bushwhack him," Ward said. "Then, I end up getting away, falling down a cliff thing, and breaking my leg — and he still saves me."

The next day, Ward unassumingly showed up on set, and "everybody is giving me the stink eye, and I don't know why. I asked the wardrobe lady, and she said, 'You knocked out Chuck Norris.' I'm like, 'It was in the script! It was a rubber branch!'

"What it showed was that [Norris's people are] incredibly protective of Chuck Norris. It's kind of sweet in one way and strange in another."

Ward, 53, doesn't walk back his days of portraying bullies early in his acting career. He still casts an imposing glare with his narrow eyes, but he's more introspective, recognizing the growth in people as they mature.

He's a director in awe of working with older acting legends George Takei and James Hong ("Patsy Lee & The Keepers of the 5 Kingdoms") and advocating for the Alzheimer's Association. (His father has the disease.) He makes annual appearances at the house in Cleveland where "A Christmas Story" took place and has, ironically, raised money for bullying prevention efforts.

A native of Toronto, Ward has always kept busy as an actor with appearances in "American Horror Story," "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia," "Titus," "Nash Bridges" and more.

Like he does every year, Ward is getting a lot of TV airtime this month. In "A Christmas Story," which plays regularly in December on TBS, Ward played young Scut Farkus, terrorizing Ralphie Parker (Peter Billingsley) and his pals. In "A Christmas Story Christmas," now streaming on HBO Max, Ward reprises Scut — with a twist.

MICHAEL TULLBERG/GETTY IMAGES

Zack Ward, the actor who portrayed Scut Farkus in 1983's "A Christmas Story," says the movie "changed my entire life."

Spoiler alert: The sequel is set 30 years after the original, and Scut has traded in his fox pelt hat for a police badge. On Christmas Eve, Scut picks up Ralphie, who has broken into a friend's business. Ralphie, who was bullied by Scut but raged back in the original movie, now finds himself in the back of Scut's police cruiser and anticipates the worst. But Scut tells Ralphie the childhood fracas changed him for the better, and he thanks him.

It's another character development and redemption opportunity, which is kind of the movie's theme.

Billingsley said he and scriptwriter Nick Schenk didn't want Ralphie and Scut to renew their conflict as adults.

"That would be the worst sort of thing they could possibly do because people evolve, and [the evolution] would give more meaning to the film in general," Billingsley said.

"So the idea that [Scut] had turned his life around and actually cites and remembers that event as being a positive for him just added a lot of depth to the story."

In an interview with the Dallas Morning News, Ward discussed what "A Christmas Story" has meant to him over the years.

Q: Sequels for "A Christmas Story" have been tried, but this one seems to connect. What's special about this one?

A: This one was in development for quite a few years because it was so important to get Peter Billingsley attached to it, to really have him as the heart of the movie.

A lot of ideas have been pitched over the years that just didn't stand up to Bob Clark's original vision or Jean Shepherd's original writing style. When this script came around, written by Nick Schenk, they really got the world right. The first one was lightning in a bottle, and how it came together and became such an iconic Christmas film, you can't really replicate that.

So they didn't try to replicate that. They made an original story ... in a way that touches on the first one but doesn't lean on it so heavily that it feels like it's trying.

Q: Did you have input on how Scut evolved from rascal to lawman?

A: Jean Shepherd ... had done a lot of spoken-word stories on the radio where he actually talks about Scut Farkus and his father. He talked about how [Scut's father] ran a junkyard and had this guttural accent. [Shepherd] said he was a "blue-faced man," meaning he always had a five o'clock shadow, very gruff and aggressive.

So, I actually had a lot to draw upon. I can look at the writings of Jean Shepherd now and see who Scut Farkus's parents were, and then you actually get into the name. Scut is a Scottish word for [the s-word], so it seems like he came from a pretty rough background.

Q: Are you okay with being primarily recognized as Scut?

A: I've just been a working actor who's recognizable and people go, "Hey, aren't you that guy from that thing with a face?" And I'm like, "That's me. Nice to meet you." I was very fortunate. Honestly, "A Christmas Story" is an experience that has changed my entire life. Everywhere I go, people are incredibly kind, even before they've met me. They look at me and smile as if I'm some long-lost relative.

— Dallas Morning News

Twitter: Reporters are allowed back if they delete tweets

TWITTER FROM **C1**

Voice of America's chief national correspondent, who has rejected Twitter's call to delete three tweets mentioning the jet account. "They appear to be based on the whims of the owner of the platform."

Similarly, Washington Post reporter Drew Harwell, Ryan Mac of the New York Times, Donie O'Sullivan of CNN, Susan Li of Fox Business and Micah Lee of the Intercept, among others, remain sidelined for their refusal to remove tweets at Twitter's insistence. Although their accounts aren't marked as suspended and appear to be active, they have in fact been locked out since Twitter acted against them eight days ago.

Harwell, for one, said he has no intention of deleting a flagged tweet, which referenced Musk's suspension of a Twitter competitor, Mastodon, over its link to its version of @ElonJet. "Hell, no. I'm not deleting a tweet that contained factual information and didn't violate anyone's rules," he said.

He added, "It's his platform. He can ban anyone he wants. And we can point out how he's making up pretextual rules that just so happen to target journalism he doesn't like."

Twitter did not return a request for comment.

O'Sullivan was suspended for a tweet similar to the one that landed Harwell in a Twitter timeout. O'Sullivan said Thursday his tweet was a legitimate piece of news and contained no personal or location information.

"Musk owns the platform," O'Sullivan said. "He's fully entitled to ban any of us. But it's all a bit rich coming from a so-called free-speech absolutist," as Musk has referred to himself.

Lee wrote about his suspension in the Intercept, saying he filed an appeal rather than delete his tweet because "I didn't want to bend the knee to the Mad King of Twitter." After two days, he wrote, he received a reply from Twitter saying it would not overturn the decision.

In response, Lee wrote that he didn't plan "on submitting to Musk's petty demands."

ANDREW HARRER/BLOOMBERG NEWS

Twitter owner Elon Musk inaccurately said the suspended journalists had posted "assassination coordinates."

The rules "appear to be based on the whims of the owner of the platform."

Steve Herman, Voice of America journalist suspended from Twitter

Despite the reporter bans, some news organizations continue to advertise on Twitter.

Aaron Rupar, an independent journalist, had his account reinstated after he agreed to Twitter's demand that he delete a tweet linking to @ElonJet's Facebook page.

Rupar said he didn't think the tweet violated any rules, but he weighed the platform's demand against the prospect of being cut off indefinitely from his 836,000 followers.

"I don't plan to quit Twitter," he said via Twitter direct message on Friday. "That would be tough for me right now as an independent journalist who has worked hard to develop a big following" on Twitter.

"I have mixed feelings, for sure," he added. "It doesn't make Twitter feel like a welcoming place ...[Musk] owns the place and if he wants to push reporters around, that's his prerogative, but I think the backlash speaks for itself."

Since purchasing Twitter for $44 billion in late October, Musk has fired thousands of employees, including those who moderate posts for hate speech and misinformation. He has restored former president Donald Trump's suspended account and others suspended under prior management, saying Twitter's new policy is "freedom of speech, but not freedom of reach."

He said this week he would step down and seek a new chief executive to run Twitter following the results of another poll he conducted himself.

Musk's erratic management of the platform has delighted some on the extreme right but has alarmed many advertisers and media advocates.

A Washington watchdog group called the Government Accountability Project on Thursday urged House and Senate committees to review Twitter's suspension of the journalists: "Plainly, Mr. Musk has abused his authority by acting arbitrarily and capriciously. All of this is disturbing."

MOVIE DIRECTORY

(!) No Pass/No Discount Ticket

Saturday, December 24, 2022
www.washingtonpost.com/movies

DISTRICT

AMC Georgetown 14
3111 K Street N.W.
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:15-8:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:10-3:40-7:10
Babylon (R) CC: 4:00-8:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 10:15-1:25-4:45-8:05
Spoiler Alert (PG-13) CC: 5:30
Violent Night (R) CC: 2:05-5:15-7:55
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 5:15
Strange World (PG) CC: 11:00AM
The Menu (R) CC: 12:25-3:00-5:35-8:10
Bones and All (R) CC: 8:30
The Whale (R) CC: 11:20-4:50-7:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 10:30-11:00-2:45-3:15-7:00-7:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:00-2:15-6:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 10:25-1:00-2:30-3:30-6:00-7:30-8:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 12:00-5:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 1:30-8:10
Babylon (R) OC: 12:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) OC: 11:00AM
Bones and All (R) OC: 2:15
The Whale (R) OC: 2:30

Angelika Pop-Up at Union Market
550 Penn Street NE - Unit E
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-3:00-7:00
Babylon (R) 11:15-3:15-7:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 10:50-1:45-4:50-7:45

Avalon Theatre
5612 Connecticut Avenue
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 4:15-7:30
The Whale (R) 2:35-5:15-8:00; 12:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) OC: 1:00

Landmark Atlantic Plumbing Cinema
807 V Street Northwest
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 12:10-12:45-2:50-3:50-6:30-7:30
Babylon (R) 12:20-3:00-4:00-6:40-7:40
The Pale Blue Eye (R) 4:30-7:10
Babylon (R) 12:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:05-4:10-7:00
The Pale Blue Eye (R) 12:15

Landmark E Street Cinema
555 11th Street Northwest
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:45-3:30-7:15
Babylon (R) 12:15-3:00-4:00-8:00
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 2:35-8:00
Tár (R) 11:30-6:45
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:30-3:30
Empire of Light (R) 12:30
The Whale (R) 12:00-2:00-4:15-4:30-7:00-7:30
White Noise (R) 5:00
Babylon (R) 6:35
Wildcat (R) 1:00-3:25-7:15

Regal Gallery Place
701 Seventh Street Northwest
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:00-10:30-2:30-3:00-4:30-7:00-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:50-6:40
Babylon (R) 10:50-3:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 10:20-11:50-3:30-6:20-6:50
Violent Night (R) 9:10-12:10-3:25-6:25
The Whale (R) 10:10-4:10-7:20
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 9:00-1:30-6:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 9:20-10:00-10:40-12:30-1:40-4:20-6:10-7:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 11:00-4:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) OC: 2:40
Babylon (R) OC: 7:10
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) OC: 2:20
The Whale (R) OC: 1:20
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) OC: 3:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 9:30-2:00-6:30

MARYLAND

AFI Silver Theatre Cultural Center
8633 Colesville Road
It's a Wonderful Life 75th Anniversary presented by TCM (PG) 11:00AM
The Holly and the Ivy (1952) (NR) 12:00
Babylon (R) 12:15-4:00-7:45
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 2:00-5:00-8:00
EO 9:10
Empire of Light (R) 1:50-4:15-6:45

AMC Academy 8
6198 Greenbelt Road
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 1:15-5:15
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:10-7:10
Babylon (R) CC: 11:00-3:00-7:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 12:45-4:30-7:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 1:30-4:30-7:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:15-4:00-6:45
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 1:30-8:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 4:15

AMC Annapolis Mall 11
1020 Annapolis Mall Road
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 10:00-11:00-12:00-1:00-2:00-3:00-4:00-5:00-6:00-7:00-8:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 11:10-2:40-6:20
Babylon (R) CC: 10:30-2:30-6:30
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 10:50-12:30-3:50-7:10
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:40-2:20-5:10-7:50
Strange World (PG) CC: 2:10-4:50
The Menu (R) CC: 7:40
The Whale (R) CC: 10:40-1:30-4:30-7:20
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 10:00-10:30-11:15-1:45-4:15-6:45

AMC Center Park 8
4001 Powder Mill Rd.
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 1:45-5:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:15-3:45-7:15
Babylon (R) CC: 11:30-3:30-7:30
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 1:00-4:20-7:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:30-4:00-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 1:30-8:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 4:30

AMC Columbia 14
10300 Little Patuxent Parkway
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 8:00-12:15-4:30-8:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:45-2:30-6:20
Babylon (R) CC: 11:30-3:45-5:30-8:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 9:20-9:30-1:00-4:30-6:10-8:00
Cirkus 8:45-6:30
Violent Night (R) CC: 10:50-1:50-4:50-7:50
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 2:45
Strange World (PG) CC: 2:40
The Menu (R) CC: 12:30-3:20
Empire of Light (R) CC: 12:00
The Whale (R) CC: 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:15
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 9:00-1:30-6:00
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:00-2:30-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 11:30-2:00-4:45-7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 1:00-3:45-6:30
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 11:00-3:30-7:45
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) 10:00AM

AMC DINE-IN Rio Cinemas 18
9811 Washingtonian Center
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 11:30-4:00-8:15-9:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 11:15-1:25-3:00-5:00-6:45-8:45-10:25
Laththi (Tamil) 10:10-11:10
Babylon (R) CC: 10:00-11:00-2:00-3:00-6:15-7:15-10:15-11:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 11:00-12:00-2:30-3:30-6:15-7:15-9:45-10:45
Cirkus 1:30-4:45-8:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 6:35
Violent Night (R) CC: 12:15-3:00-5:45-8:30-11:15
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 12:40
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:00-4:00
The Menu (R) CC: 10:15AM
Empire of Light (R) CC: 10:00AM
The Whale (R) CC: 10:30-4:30-7:30-10:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:00-12:45-3:15-5:00-7:45-9:15
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:30-2:45-7:00-11:15
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 10:00-11:00-12:45-3:30-6:15-9:00-10:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 1:45-4:30-7:15
The Whale (R) OC: 1:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 1:45-6:00-10:15

AMC Loews St. Charles Town Ctr. 9
11115 Mall Circle
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 11:00-3:15-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:45-2:45-6:45
Babylon (R) CC: 10:45-3:00-7:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 10:30-1:45-5:00-8:15
Violent Night (R) CC: 10:45-1:45-6:15
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:15-8:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 10:00-12:45-3:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 4:30-7:00

AMC Magic Johnson Capital Center 12
800 Shoppers Way
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 1:00-1:30-5:15-5:45
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:45-3:30-7:00
Babylon (R) CC: 12:15-12:45-5:00-7:30
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 12:15-2:45-3:30-6:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 12:35-4:15-7:15
Strange World (PG) CC: 4:30
The Menu (R) CC: 12:05
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:30-4:45
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:15-8:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 2:45-5:20-8:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 2:00-4:45-7:30
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) OC: 6:00

AMC Montgomery 16
7101 Democracy Boulevard
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 10:00-11:00-12:00-1:00-2:00-3:15-4:15-5:15-6:15-7:30-8:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:20-2:15-6:00
Babylon (R) CC: 10:15-12:15-2:15-4:30-6:15-8:30
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 12:00-1:30-3:30-5:00-7:00-8:25
Ticket to Paradise (PG-13) CC: 4:45
Cirkus 10:30-1:45-5:00-8:15
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 10:10AM
Violent Night (R) CC: 10:45-1:50-4:45-7:45
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 11:05-2:30-6:00
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:00-11:00-1:45-4:30-7:15
The Menu (R) CC: 2:00
Empire of Light (R) CC: 7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 10:45-11:45-1:30-2:45-5:30-7:00-8:15; 4:15

Cinemark Egyptian 24 and XD
7000 Arundel Mills Circle
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-3:15-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:40-3:25-7:05
Babylon (R) 10:55-1:10-3:10-5:20-7:25
Black Adam (PG-13) 6:55
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 10:00-11:15-2:05-3:15-6:10-7:15
Cirkus 2:50-6:30
Private Watch Party 11:00-3:00
18 Pages 3:00-6:50
Dhamaka (Telugu) (2022-II) 7:00
It's a Wonderful Life 75th Anniversary presented by TCM (PG) 10:15AM
Violent Night (R) 11:20-2:10-5:00-7:50
Strange World (PG) 10:40-1:20-4:00
The Menu (R) 10:50-1:45-4:30-7:35
The Whale (R) 10:20-11:35-1:15-2:40-4:10-6:00-7:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) XD: 10:30-2:45-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 11:10-1:55-4:35-7:20
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 12:30-4:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) XD: 11:30-3:45-8:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-3:15-7:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:00-1:00-1:30-2:00-4:15-5:15-5:45-6:15; 10:30-2:45-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:45-12:15-1:25-2:25-4:05-6:45-7:45; 11:45-5:05

Cinépolis Gaithersburg
629 Center Point Way
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:00-2:00-3:00-7:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:40-3:40
Babylon (R) 12:00-2:40
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 10:20-5:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:00-1:00-4:00-6:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 11:30-12:30-2:20-3:20-5:30-6:30

Hoyt's West Nursery Cinema 14
1591 West Nursery Road
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 1:00-2:00-4:05-5:05-6:05
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:45-4:10-6:15
Black Adam (PG-13) 1:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:55-1:45-3:15-4:55-6:25-8:05
The Woman King (PG-13) 6:50
Violent Night (R) 1:30-7:35
Till (PG-13) 3:55
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 1:20-4:35-8:00
Strange World (PG) 1:25-3:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 3:00-7:20
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 12:50-4:20-6:55
Till (PG-13) 1:05
Babylon (R) 1:10-3:05-5:00-7:00

Landmark Bethesda Row Cinema
7235 Woodmont Avenue
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 12:00-4:00-6:45-7:50
Babylon (R) 11:45-12:30-3:30-4:15-7:20-8:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:00-3:00-6:15
The Whale (R) 1:00-2:00-3:45-4:45-6:30-7:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:30-3:15-7:15
Empire of Light (R) 1:30-4:10

Landmark at Annapolis Harbour Center
2474 Solomons Island Road Unit H-1
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 1:00-3:45-6:30
Babylon (R) 12:45-4:00-7:35
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 1:10-4:50-7:50
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:40-4:00-7:20
Wildcat (R) 1:20-4:30-7:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:15-3:00-4:10-7:00-8:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 12:30-1:00-1:30-4:15-4:40-7:15-7:45

Old Greenbelt Theatre
129 Centerway
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 4:45-8:00
Empire of Light (R) 5:00-8:15

Phoenix Theatres Marlow 6
3899 Branch Avenue
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 2:05-6:05
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:30-4:00-7:45
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 1:00-3:10-4:25-6:30-7:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 3:05-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 12:00-1:00-2:30-5:00-7:30

Regal Bowie
15200 Major Lansdale Boulevard
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-1:50-2:30-6:00-6:30-7:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:10-3:10-6:50
Babylon (R) 1:00-5:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 11:50-3:40-5:20-7:20
Violent Night (R) 11:40-3:50-6:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:30-5:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 11:10-12:00-1:30-2:40-4:15-7:10

Regal Cinemas Majestic Stadium 20 & IMAX
900 Ellsworth Drive
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 12:10-12:40-2:05-4:25-5:10-6:30-9:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:10-4:15-8:00
Babylon (R) 9:45-2:00-3:00-6:15-7:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 11:05-12:05-2:40-3:45-6:05-7:20
Cirkus 9:15-1:00-4:35-8:20
18 Pages 9:30-1:10-4:50-8:30
Violent Night (R) 11:50-2:30-5:20-8:05
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:50-4:20-8:15
Strange World (PG) 1:00-3:40
The Menu (R) 6:15-9:00
The Whale (R) 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:10-2:35-3:05-7:00-7:40
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 9:10-1:35-6:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 9:55-10:55-12:35-1:35-4:15-6:10-7:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:10-3:35-8:10
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) OC: 3:15

Regal Germantown
20000 Century Boulevard
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-11:20-2:30-3:20-3:40-7:10-7:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:10-3:10-7:05
Babylon (R) 12:00-2:50-4:00-7:00-8:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:10-3:50-7:40
Cirkus 4:10-7:45
18 Pages 10:50-2:00-5:40
Violent Night (R) 11:50-2:40-5:30-7:55
Strange World (PG) 11:30AM
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:40-2:20-3:00-6:50-7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:45-12:40-1:40-3:30-4:20-6:10-7:20; 11:40AM

Regal Hyattsville Royale
6505 America Blvd.
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:40-7:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 3:40-7:30
Babylon (R) 11:50-7:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 11:30-3:00-6:30
Violent Night (R) 12:00-4:10-8:00
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 11:20-3:20-7:40
Strange World (PG) 4:10
The Menu (R) 4:20
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:10-12:10-3:20-5:00-7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 11:00-1:40-4:30-7:50

Regal Laurel Towne Centre
14716 Baltimore Avenue
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-1:00-2:00-4:20-5:00-6:10
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:50-3:20-7:10
Babylon (R) 10:40-2:50-6:50
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 11:10-2:40-6:20
Violent Night (R) 11:40-2:20-5:10-8:00
Strange World (PG) 10:50AM
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:30-12:00-3:30-4:30-6:00-7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 11:20-12:20-2:10-3:10-4:50-6:10-7:20

Regal Rockville Center
199 East Montgomery Avenue
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:10-1:20-3:30-5:00-5:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:30-2:20-6:00
Babylon (R) 2:00-6:30
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:20-3:50-7:20
Violent Night (R) 10:40-1:40-4:40-7:40
Strange World (PG) 11:30-2:10-4:50-7:30
The Menu (R) 5:10-8:00
Empire of Light (R) 11:00-1:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:00-2:30-4:20-6:50
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:50-11:20-11:50-1:30-2:40-4:10-5:30-7:10

Regal UA Snowden Square
9161 Commerce Center Drive
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:50-3:20-7:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:00-2:40-6:30
Babylon (R) 10:40-1:40-3:10-6:10-7:10
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:00-3:40-4:40-7:20
Violent Night (R) 4:50-7:40
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 12:30
Strange World (PG) 10:20AM
The Menu (R) 11:10AM
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-1:50-2:20-6:20-6:50
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 11:50-12:20-2:30-3:00-5:10-5:50-8:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:30-11:40-12:40-2:50-4:00-5:00-7:30-8:10

Regal Waugh Chapel & IMAX
1419 South Main Chapel Way
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:50-12:40-2:10-3:10-5:00-6:30-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:00-2:50-6:40
Babylon (R) 10:00-2:00-6:20
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:00-3:40-4:20-7:20-7:50
Violent Night (R) 1:50-4:50-7:40
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 10:10AM
Strange World (PG) 10:00AM
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:20-11:10-2:40-3:50-7:00-8:00
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 9:10-1:40-6:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 9:30-10:30-12:30-1:30-4:10-7:10

Regal Westview & IMAX
5243 Buckeystown Pike
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:30-11:10-1:00-2:50-3:20-5:20-7:20-7:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:20-3:00-6:40
Babylon (R) 10:10-2:10-6:10-7:30
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:30-4:00-8:00
Violent Night (R) 4:40-7:50
Strange World (PG) 11:10-2:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-2:20-6:50
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 9:30-1:50-6:20
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 9:40-10:50-12:20-1:40-3:10-7:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:00-4:20
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) OC: 4:30

Xscape Theatres Brandywine 14
7710 Matapeake Business Drive
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: (!) 11:20-1:20-3:20-5:20-7:20-9:20
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 11:30-3:00-6:30
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:05-1:45-4:25-7:05
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: (!) 10:40-2:40-6:40
Babylon (R) CC: (!) 10:30-2:20-6:20
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: (!) 10:00-11:55-2:00-3:55-6:00-8:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: (!) 11:10-12:30-2:30-3:40-6:00-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: (!) 10:10-11:00-12:50-1:30-3:30-4:10-6:10-6:50

iPic Pike & Rose
11830 Grand Park Avenue
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) (!) 11:00-3:30-8:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:00-3:00-7:00
Babylon (R) (!) 11:45-2:15-6:45-7:30
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) (!) 12:00-12:30-3:45-4:00-7:15-7:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) (!) 1:30-6:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) (!) 11:15-12:15-3:15-4:15-6:15

VIRGINIA

AMC Courthouse Plaza 8
2150 Clarendon Blvd.
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 12:20-3:30-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 1:50-7:40
Babylon (R) CC: 10:50-2:50-6:50
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 12:10-4:40-7:50
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:10-3:25-5:20-8:00
The Menu (R) CC: 1:55
The Whale (R) CC: 11:10-2:00-4:50-8:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:00-3:00-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 11:30-4:30-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 10:30-1:00-6:10

AMC Hoffman Center 22
206 Swamp Fox Rd.
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 11:00-11:30-3:10-3:45-7:15-8:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:30-2:15-6:00-6:30
Babylon (R) CC: 10:00-10:45-2:15-6:15-6:30-8:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 10:00-11:30-12:00-2:45-3:30-6:00-6:45-7:00
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 1:30-4:45
Violent Night (R) CC: 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:10
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 6:45
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:30-11:15-1:15-4:00
The Menu (R) CC: 1:30-4:15
Empire of Light (R) CC: 10:30AM
The Whale (R) CC: 10:00-1:00-4:00-7:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:15-8:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:00-2:10-6:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 10:45-12:45-3:30-3:45-6:15-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 1:30-4:30
Babylon (R) OC: 2:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 10:30-1:00-2:45-5:15-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:10-1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:30-5:00

AMC Potomac Mills 18
2700 Potomac Mills Circle
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 1:45-6:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:50-4:30-8:15
Babylon (R) CC: 11:20-1:30-3:30-5:45-7:45
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 11:15-12:30-2:45-4:00-6:15-7:15
Cirkus 11:45-6:10
18 Pages 3:30-6:40
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 12:15
Violent Night (R) CC: 11:40-2:30-5:30-8:20
Strange World (PG) CC: 1:15-4:00
The Menu (R) CC: 6:45
Empire of Light (R) CC: 3:00
The Whale (R) CC: 1:30-4:20-7:10
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:00-3:15-7:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:15-8:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 11:10-12:00-2:00-4:45-7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 1:00-3:45-6:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:30-2:45-3:45-7:00-8:00

AMC Shirlington 7
2772 South Randolph St.
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 10:10-2:20-6:30-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 12:10-3:40-7:20
Babylon (R) CC: 10:50-2:50-7:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 12:40-3:50-7:10
The Whale (R) CC: 11:10-2:00-4:50-7:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 11:20-3:25
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 12:30-5:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 3:00-8:00

AMC Tysons Corner 16
7850e Tysons Corner Center
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) CC: 10:50AM
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 10:40-2:25-6:15-9:55
Babylon (R) CC: 10:30-12:30-4:45-7:05-9:05
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 10:05-11:40-1:40-3:00-5:00-6:20-8:20-9:45
Devotion (PG-13) CC: 4:40
Violent Night (R) CC: 10:45-1:35-4:30-7:20-10:10
The Fabelmans (PG-13) CC: 8:10
Strange World (PG) CC: 10:10-1:00-3:40
The Menu (R) CC: 6:25-9:10
The Whale (R) CC: 10:10-4:00-6:55-9:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:00-4:15-8:30
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) CC: 10:00-2:15-6:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 10:30-1:10-3:55-6:35-9:15-10:15
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 2:10-4:50
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 11:00-3:15-7:30
Babylon (R) OC: 2:50
The Whale (R) OC: 1:05
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 12:45-1:30-5:05-5:45-9:20-10:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 11:30AM; 7:35

AMC Worldgate 9
13025 Worldgate Drive
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) CC: 2:30-7:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) CC: 3:45-7:15
Babylon (R) CC: 2:45-6:45
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) CC: 2:00-3:00-6:15
Violent Night (R) CC: 1:00-5:00-7:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) CC: 1:00-3:30-6:00-8:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) CC: 1:30-6:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish 3D (PG) CC: 4:00

Alamo Drafthouse Cinema - One Loudoun
20575 East Hampton Plaza
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:30AM; 6:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-3:30-8:00
Violent Night (R) 11:15-1:00-4:00-7:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 10:30-2:30-6:15
The Whale (R) 12:15-3:45-7:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-2:30-7:00; 1:00-5:30
Babylon (R) 11:30-2:00-4:30-6:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 12:00-1:45-3:00-5:00

Angelika Film Center Mosaic
2911 District Ave
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-3:00-7:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:20-6:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:00-4:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 9:55-12:15-1:45-2:35-4:15-5:05-7:30
Babylon (R) 11:15-3:15-7:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 10:10-1:15-4:15-7:20
The Whale (R) 10:45-1:30-4:20-7:05
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-2:00-6:00

CMX Village 14
1600 Village Market Boulevard
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:40-4:20-8:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) (!) 3:00-3:20-3:40-7:30-7:45
Babylon (R) 2:10-3:50-6:10-7:50
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:20-12:50-3:45-4:15-7:15-7:40
Violent Night (R) 8:10
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 1:20-4:45
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) (!) 12:30-1:40-2:20-4:40-6:00-6:30-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 12:45-1:10-1:50-4:00-4:30-6:40-7:10

Cinema Arts Theatre
9650 Main St
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 12:30-7:30
Babylon (R) 9:40-1:05-7:50
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 10:05-1:15-7:15-10:15
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 10:00-1:00-7:20-10:10
The Banshees of Inisherin (R) 9:45-12:05-7:10-9:30
Aftersun (2022-1) (R) 9:55-2:20-4:40
Empire of Light (R) 9:40-12:00-2:30-5:00-7:35-9:55
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 4:00
Babylon (R) 4:30
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 4:20
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 4:15

Cinemark Centreville 12
6201 Multiplex Drive
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 12:05-4:20-5:25
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:40-3:25-7:10
Babylon (R) 10:10-12:15-2:15-4:25-6:20
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 10:35-12:10-3:35-7:00
Cirkus 11:25-6:00
18 Pages 2:45
Dhamaka (Telugu) (2022-II) 8:00
Violent Night (R) 10:25-2:00-4:55-7:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-11:00-1:15-2:10-3:15-6:25-7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:30-12:00-1:10-2:40-3:50-6:30; 5:20

Cinemark Fairfax Corner and XD
11900 Palace Way
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:15AM
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:05-6:35
Babylon (R) 10:50-1:30-5:40-7:10
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 11:40-6:30-8:00
Cirkus 11:20-6:00
18 Pages 2:45
Violent Night (R) 10:35-11:10-4:50-7:40
The Whale (R) 10:40-1:40-4:35-7:35
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) XD: 10:30-1:50-2:45-6:05-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:30-10:45-12:00-1:25-4:05-6:45
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 3:20
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) OC: 2:55
Babylon (R) OC: 3:00
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) OC: 3:05
Violent Night (R) OC: 2:00
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 12:40-1:15-4:55-7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 2:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) OC: 5:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) OC: 5:20

Medal of Honor Theater - NMMC
18900 Jefferson Davis Highway
Dr. Seuss' The Grinch (PG) 2:00
We, the Marines (NR) 10:00-11:00-12:00-1:00

Regal Ballston Quarter
671 North Glebe Road
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:00-11:40-1:20-2:10-4:00-5:00-5:50-6:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:20-2:20-6:00
Babylon (R) 9:50-2:00-6:20
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:10-3:40-7:20
Violent Night (R) 10:50-1:40-4:40-7:40
Strange World (PG) 10:10-1:00-3:50
The Menu (R) 6:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:40-3:00-7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:30-12:30-1:30-4:20-6:10-7:10; 3:20

Regal Dulles Town Center
21100 Dulles Town Circle
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:30-1:40-3:45-6:25-8:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:00-3:00-6:45
Babylon (R) 2:00-6:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:05-3:45-7:20
Violent Night (R) 11:15-2:15-5:00-7:45
Strange World (PG) 10:15-12:45-3:30
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:40-12:30-2:45-4:45-7:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:30-1:30-4:15-7:10
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 5:45

Regal Fairfax Towne Center
4110 West Ox Road
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 12:30-1:20-4:30-5:40
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:10-3:50-7:20
Babylon (R) 10:50-3:00-7:10
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:00-3:40-7:00
Violent Night (R) 11:30-2:20-5:10-8:00
The Night Owl 11:00-1:50-4:50-7:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:30-11:20-2:40-3:30-6:40-7:40
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 1:30-4:10-6:50; 10:40AM

Regal Fox & IMAX
22875 Brambleton Plaza
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 1:40-6:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:10-2:50-6:30
Babylon (R) 10:45-3:00-7:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:10-3:40-7:20
Cirkus 11:20-2:40-6:20
18 Pages 10:50-3:20-6:40
Violent Night (R) 10:10-4:10-7:40
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 9:00-1:30-5:50
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 10:00-2:30-6:50
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 12:30-3:20-6:10
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-12:40-3:30-5:10-7:50
Babylon (R) 2:00-6:15
Strange World (PG) 10:20AM
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:30-12:00-3:00-4:30-7:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:30-1:30-4:20-7:10

Regal Kingstowne & RPX
5910 Kingstowne Towne Center
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:40-2:50-7:00
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:50-3:15-6:50
Babylon (R) 10:05-11:40-2:00-3:40-6:15-7:45
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:20-3:45-7:20
Cirkus 10:10-1:20-4:30-7:40
18 Pages 4:00-7:05
Violent Night (R) 10:20-1:05
The Fabelmans (PG-13) 11:15-2:35-6:25
Strange World (PG) 10:25AM
Empire of Light (R) 10:15AM
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-2:05-6:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:30-11:30-12:30-1:30-2:20-4:10-5:10-6:00-6:40-7:50
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 1:15-4:50-5:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:10-12:00-3:35-4:05-8:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) OC: 3:10

Regal Manassas & IMAX
11380 Bulloch Drive
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 11:00-3:20-4:30-7:50
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 9:20-1:10-5:10
Babylon (R) 9:30-10:40-1:50-2:45-6:10-7:20
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:00-3:40-7:10
Cirkus 10:35-2:10-5:50
18 Pages 12:10-3:30-6:55
Violent Night (R) 10:20-1:20-4:20-7:30
I Heard the Bells 9:00AM
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 10:00-12:30-2:20-5:00-6:50
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 9:10-1:35-6:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 9:40-10:40-1:30-3:15-4:15-7:00; 12:20-6:00

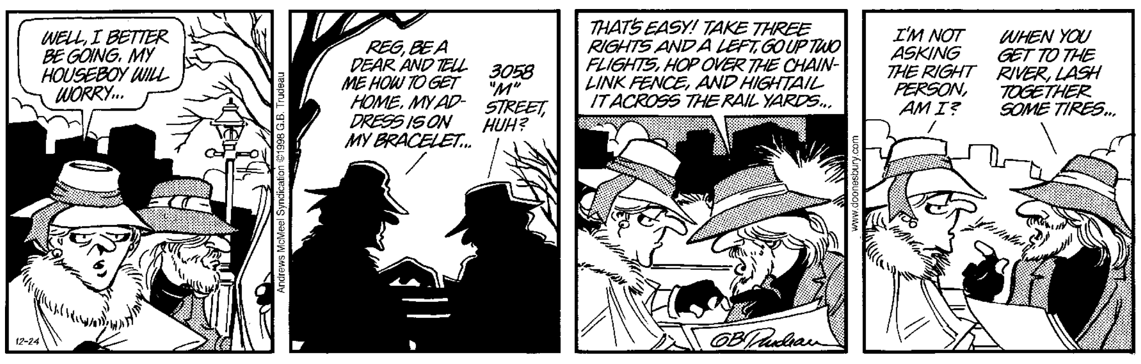
Regal Springfield Town Center
6859 Springfield Mall
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:20-2:40-3:10-7:00-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 10:50-4:00-7:40
Babylon (R) 2:00-6:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 11:00-2:30-6:00
Violent Night (R) 11:30-2:20-5:10-7:50
Strange World (PG) 10:40AM
The Whale (R) 10:10-1:10-4:10-7:20
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 11:20-12:20-1:40-3:40-4:40-6:30-8:00
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 10:30-11:10-11:20-1:30-2:10-4:20-5:00-7:10-7:50

Regal Virginia Gateway & RPX
8001 Gateway Promenade Place
Dr. Seuss' How The Grinch Stole Christmas (2000) (PG) 1:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 9:40-6:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 11:00-2:40-6:40
Babylon (R) 9:45-10:45-2:00-3:00-6:15-7:15
Whitney Houston: I Wanna Dance With Somebody (PG-13) 12:05-3:45-7:20
Violent Night (R) 9:50-4:30-7:40
Strange World (PG) 10:00AM
The Menu (R) 7:50
Avatar: The Way of Water 3D (PG-13) 2:05; 10:40-11:10-11:40-3:10-3:35-4:05-5:30-7:30-8:00-8:30
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 9:30-10:30-11:30-12:40-1:30-2:20-4:15-5:15-7:10
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) 10:10-12:10-2:35-4:40-7:00

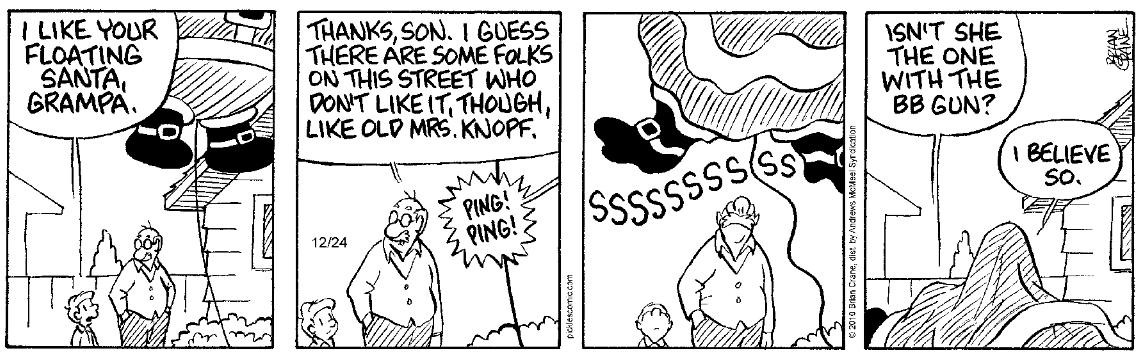
Smithsonian - Airbus IMAX Theater
14390 Air and Space Museum Parkway
Journey to Space (2015) (NR) 10:20-12:20-2:20
To Fly! (1976) (NR) 11:00-1:00
Aircraft Carrier: Guardians of the Seas 2D 11:40-1:40
Avatar: The Way of Water - An IMAX 3D Experience (PG-13) 3:15-7:05

University Mall Theatre
10659-A Braddock Road
Puss in Boots: The Last Wish (PG) 12:10-2:20-4:30-7:00
Avatar: The Way of Water (PG-13) OC: 4:00; 12:30-7:30
Black Panther: Wakanda Forever (PG-13) 12:45-4:10-7:15

CLASSIC DOONESBURY
GARRY TRUDEAU



PICKLES
BRIAN CRANE



BRIDGE

N-S VULNERABLE

NORTH (D)
♠ Q J 10 5
♥ K Q 5
♦ 10 8
♣ A Q 5 2

WEST
♠ 3 2
♥ A 10 8 4 2
♦ 7 5 3
♣ J 10 9

EAST
♠ A K 7
♥ 9 6
♦ Q J 9 6 2
♣ 8 4 3

SOUTH
♠ 9 8 6 4
♥ J 7 3
♦ A K 4
♣ K 7 6

The bidding:

NORTH	EAST	SOUTH	WEST
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♠	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	2 NT	Pass
4 ♠	All Pass		

Opening lead — ♣ J

I asked players at my club what phrase best captured the Christmas spirit. Unlucky Louie chose "Peace on Earth." Rose cited "Goodwill toward men." And Cy the Cynic lived up to his name by suggesting "Batteries not included."

Cy trusts nobody, whatever the season. As today's West he led the jack of clubs against four spades. (South's 2NT showed about 11 points, balanced.) South won in dummy and led the queen of trumps, and East took the king and led the nine of hearts.

The Cynic took his ace and returned a heart. South won, lost a trump to the ace and took the rest. Making four.

"Don't you trust anyone?" East sighed.

The bidding (and East's defense) marked East with A-K-x in trumps. But if he had a singleton heart, South would have four and would have responded one heart. Cy should duck the first heart. When East takes the ace of trumps, he leads his last heart and gets a ruff.

All my club members and I wish for my readers a holiday season of peace and joy.

DAILY QUESTION

You hold:
♠ 9 8 6 4 ♥ J 7 3
♦ A K 4 ♣ K 7 6

Your partner opens one diamond, you respond one spade and he bids two clubs. What do you say?

ANSWER: You have enough strength to invite game but not to force. A jump to three diamonds would be fine if your partner would treat it as invitational. If three diamonds would be forcing — some expert partnerships treat it that way — or if you're not sure, underbid with two diamonds or try 2NT.

— Frank Stewart

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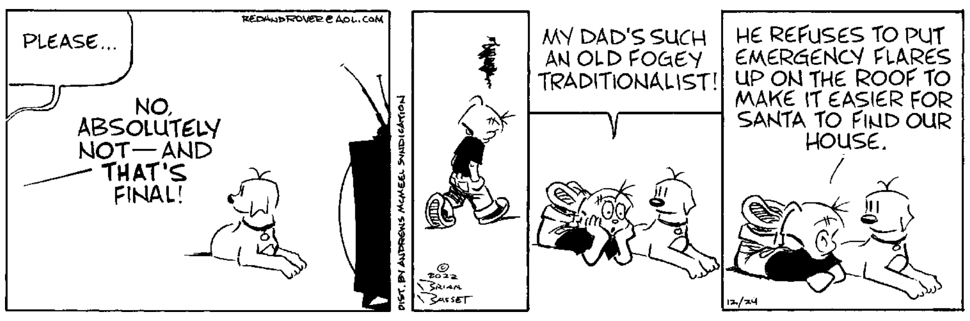
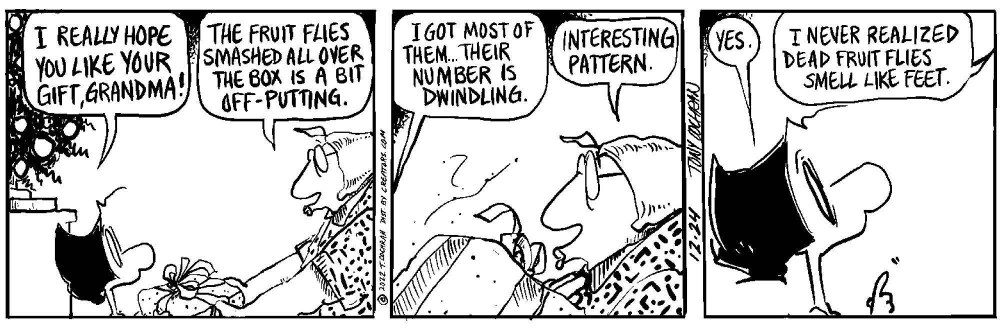
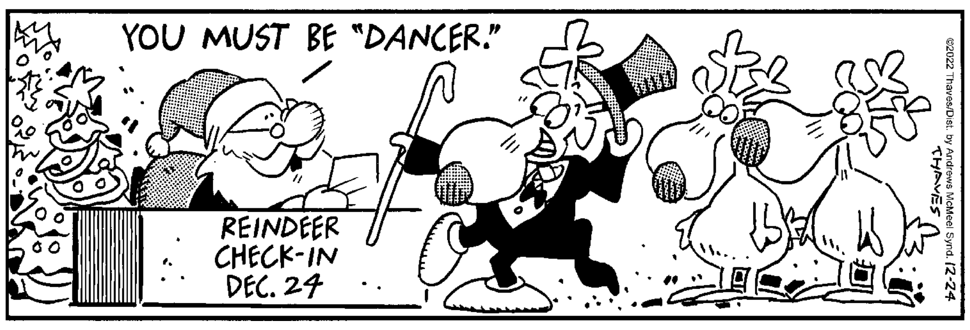
RED AND ROVER
BRIAN BASSET



AGNES
TONY COCHRAN



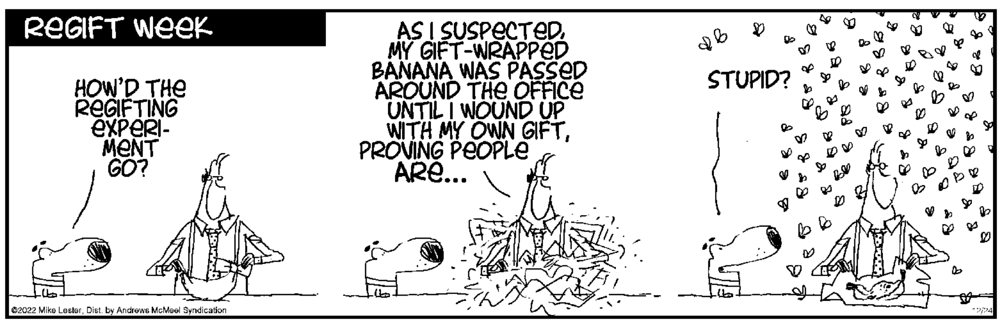
FRANK AND ERNEST
TOM THAVES



WUMO
MIKAEL WULFF & ANDERS MORGENTHALER

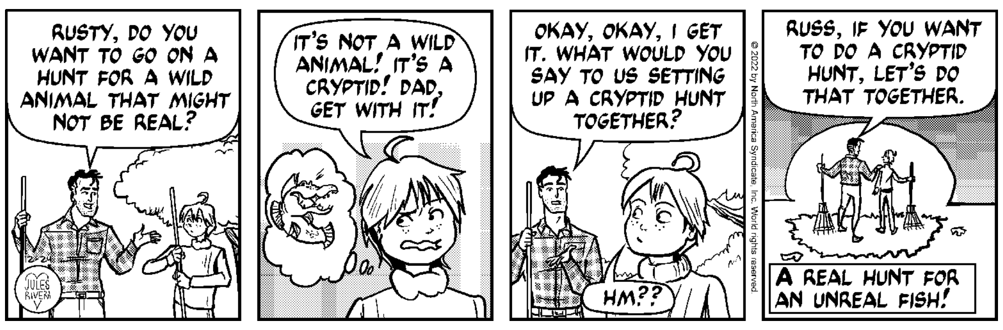
CLASSIC PEANUTS
CHARLES SCHULZ

MIKE DU JOUR
MIKE LESTER

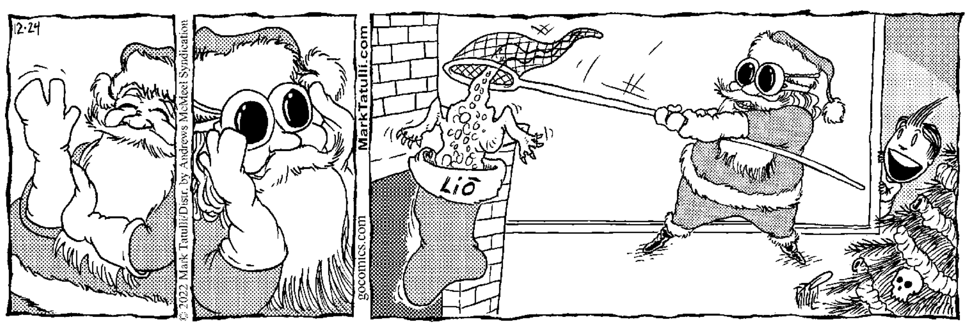


RHYMES WITH ORANGE
HILARY PRICE

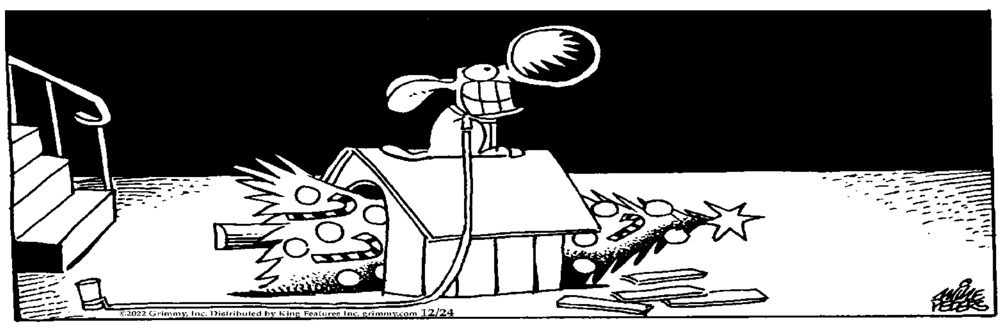
MARK TRAIL
JULES RIVERA



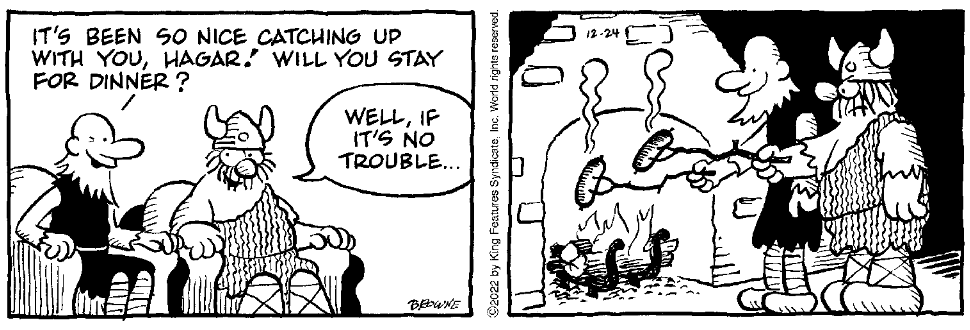
LIO
MARK TATULLI



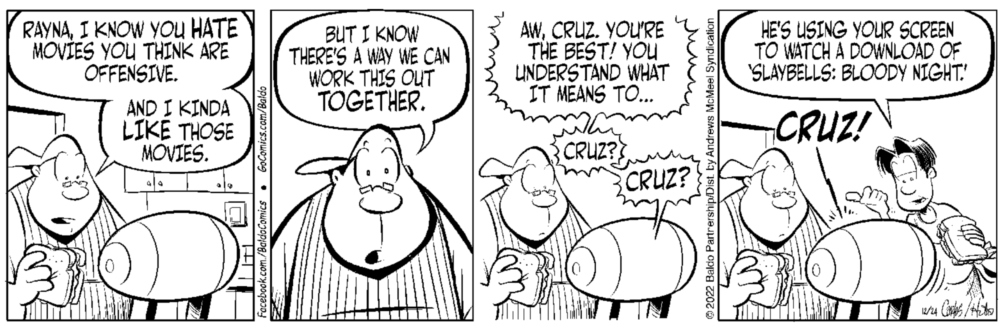
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM
MIKE PETERS



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE
CHRIS BROWNE



BALDO
HECTOR CANTU & CARLOS CASTELLANOS



BLONDIE
DEAN YOUNG & JOHN MARSHALL

SALLY FORTH
FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & JIM KEEFE

SUDOKU

Complete the grid so that every row, column and 3x3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 inclusively.

				2		1	4	
					1	6		
			9	6				2
7	1		8			2	3	
				3				
	3	6			4		8	7
9				4	7			
		3	5					
	5	2		1				

12/24

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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★★

SCRABBLE GRAMS

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E1 I1 U1 C3 M3 R1 N1 — RACK 1

I1 O1 T1 T1 L1 P3 S1 — 2nd Letter Triple — RACK 2

A1 O1 Y4 F4 B3 P3 F4 — Double Word Score — RACK 3

O1 U1 M3 H4 S1 G2 R1 — RACK 4

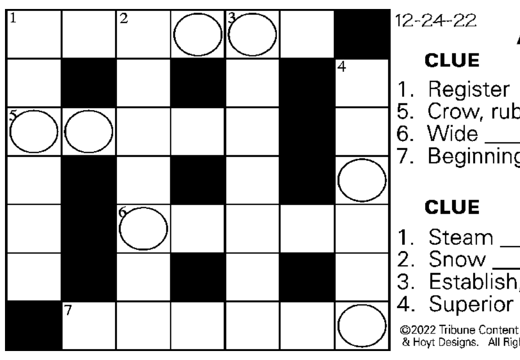
PAR SCORE 170-180
BEST SCORE 223
FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7-letter word from the letters in each row. Add points of each word, using scoring directions at right. Finally, 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All the words are in the Official SCRABBLE® Players Dictionary, 5th Edition. **SOLUTION TOMORROW**

For more information on tournaments and clubs, email NASPA - North American SCRABBLE Players Association info@scrabbleplayers.org. Visit our website - www.scrabbleplayers.org. For puzzle inquiries contact scrgrams@gmail.com

12-24

JUMBLE CROSSWORDS™
by David L. Hoyt



12-24-22

ACROSS

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Register	SETNIL
5. Crow, rub it in	LAGTO
6. Wide ____	KEAAW
7. Beginning, onset	DVTANE

DOWN

CLUE	ANSWER
1. Steam ____	NGENEI
2. Snow ____	RDOEPLA
3. Establish, settle	UTAETSI
4. Superior in quality	SINFTE

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How to play: Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

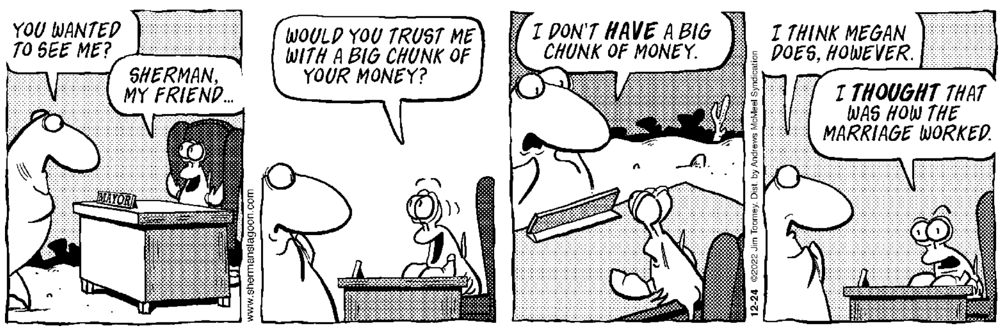
TRIPLE BONUS The circled letters can be unscrambled to form three different BONUS answers.

CLUE: Planning, scheduling ○○○○○○○
CLUE: Persisting ○○○○○○○
CLUE: Seasoning ○○○○○○○

ANSWERS: 1A-Enlist 7A-Advent 5A-Gloat 6A-Awake 3D-Situate 1D-Engine 2D-Leopard B-Salting 4D-Finest B-Slating B-Lasting

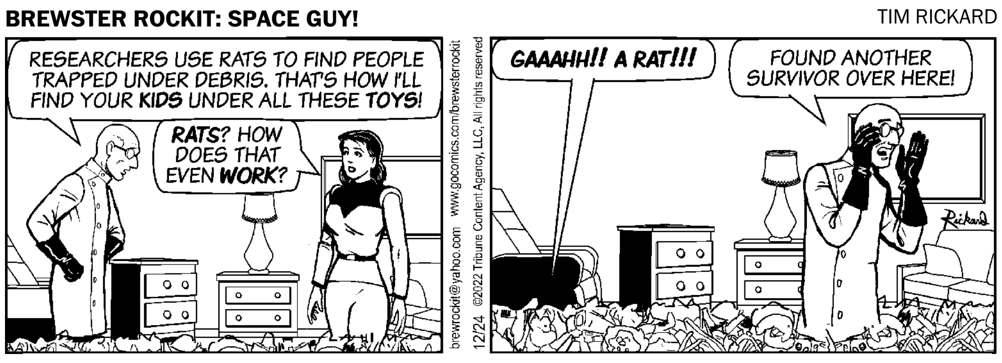
Do you have any comments? I would love to hear from you. You can e-mail me at: DLHoyt@HoytInteractiveMedia.com

SHERMAN'S LAGOON
JIM TOOMEY



CURTIS
RAY BILLINGSLEY

BREWSTER ROCKIT: SPACE GUY!
TIM RICKARD



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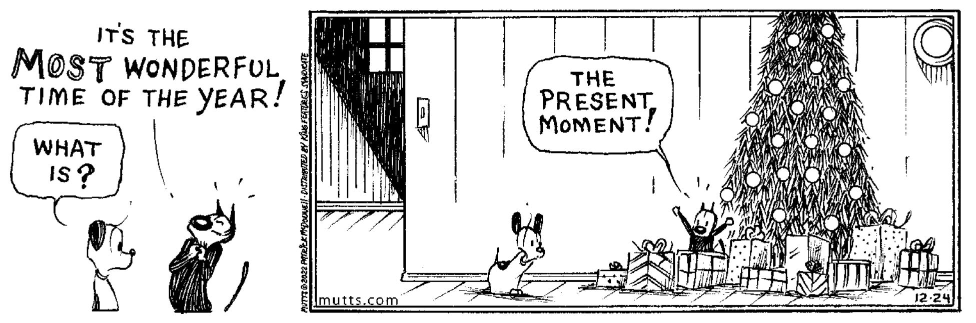
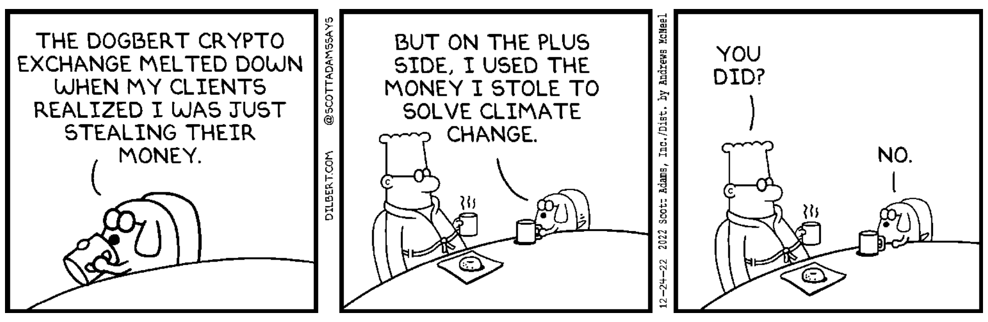


ZITS JERRY SCOTT & JIM BORGMAN

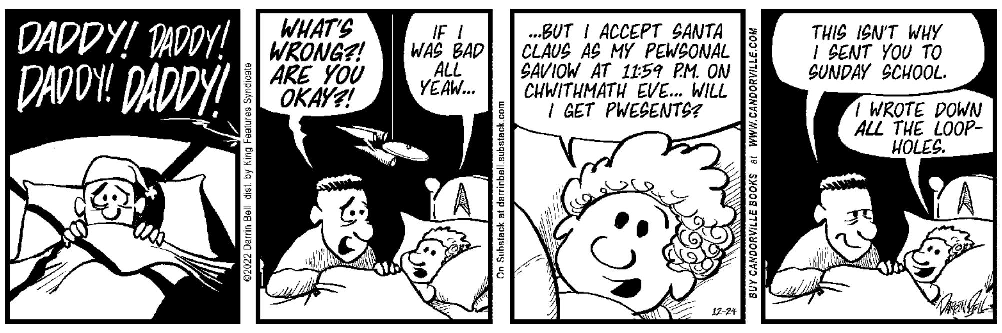
DILBERT SCOTT ADAMS



JUDGE PARKER FRANCESCO MARCIULIANO & MIKE MANLEY

FRAZZ JEF MALLETT

CANDORVILLE DARRIN BELL

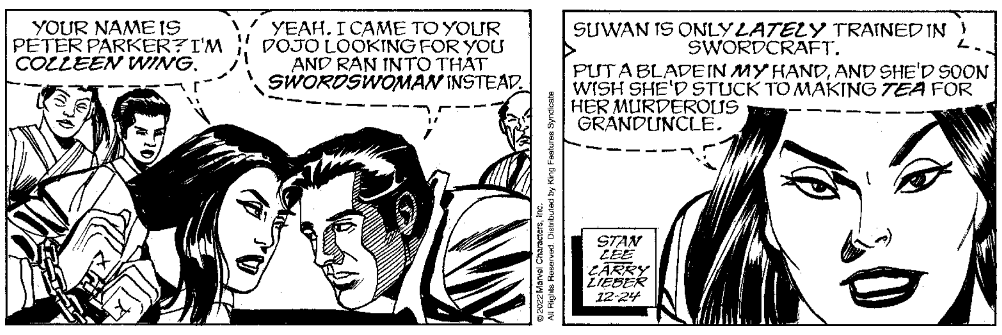


GARFIELD JIM DAVIS

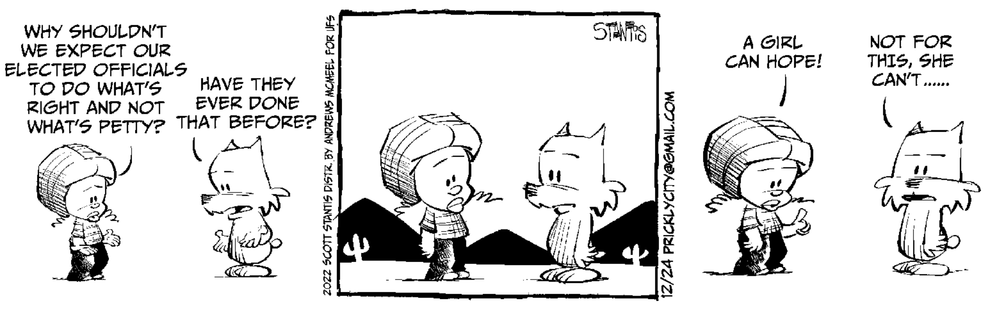
BARNEY AND CLYDE WEINGARTENS & CLARK

DUSTIN STEVE KELLEY & JEFF PARKER

THE AMAZING SPIDER-MAN STAN LEE & ALEX SAVIUK

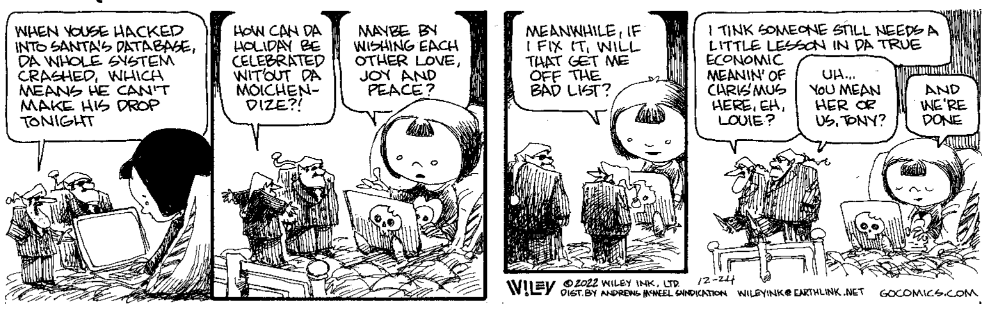


PRICKLY CITY SCOTT STANTIS



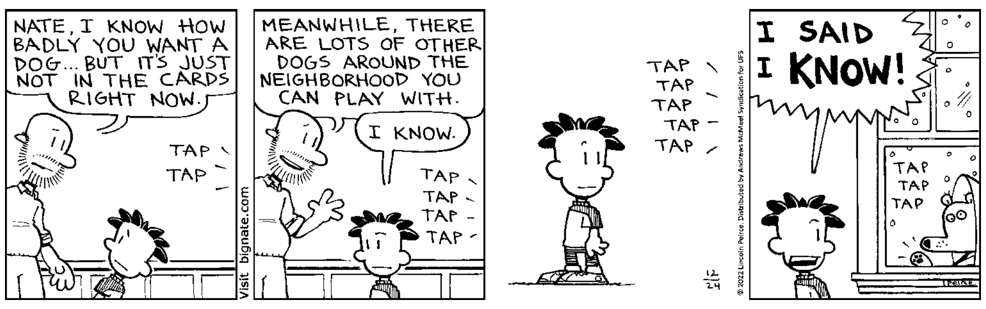
LOOSE PARTS DAVE BLAZEK

NON SEQUITUR WILEY



BABY BLUES RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT

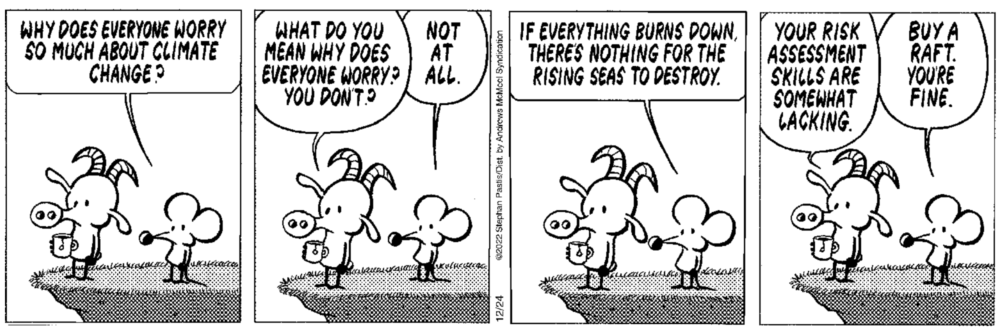
BIG NATE LINCOLN PEIRCE



ON THE FASTRACK BILL HOLBROOK

BEETLE BAILEY MORT, BRIAN & GREG WALKER

PEARLS BEFORE SWINE STEPHAN PASTIS



HOROSCOPE

BIRTHDAY | DECEMBER 24

You are loyal, reliable and considerate of others. People know they can count on you. You think things through carefully. This is a year of service to others, especially family. Take care of yourself. Take time to personalize your home to make it warmer and welcoming.

Moon Alert: Avoid shopping or making important decisions after 10 p.m. today. After that, the Moon moves from Capricorn into Aquarius.

ARIES
(MARCH 21-APRIL 19).
Warm vibes make today a wonderful day to get in touch with parents and authority figures. Your dealings with bosses, even the police, will be pleasant and mutually beneficial. You find it easy to talk to others today.

TAURUS
(APRIL 20-MAY 20).
This is a wonderful day to travel, because you will enjoy the stimulation. You will enjoy talking to people from other backgrounds and different cultures. It's a great day to learn something new; you're keen to broaden your horizons.

GEMINI
(MAY 21-JUNE 20).
This is an excellent day for financial negotiations, especially regarding the wealth and resources of partners or other people. It's also a good day to negotiate a loan or a mortgage. People are generous to you today.

CANCER
(JUNE 21-JULY 22).
All your interactions with partners and close friends will be warm and friendly today. In fact, these relations will be so mutually positive, you might feel inspired by someone. Perhaps they will introduce you to a new way of thinking or beliefs about something.

LEO
(JULY 23-AUG. 22).
This is a lovely day for those of you who are working. Relations with co-workers will be warm and mutually supportive. Conversations will flow freely, and there will be good feelings with everyone. Some of you will derive great joy from the past.

VIRGO
(AUG. 23-SEPT. 22).
This is a wonderful, playful day! Meet friends for lunch or later in the day. Enjoy happy hour and party with loved ones. Playful activities with children, as well as anything related to sports, will be a fun-filled experience. Enjoy your day!

LIBRA
(SEPT. 23-OCT. 22).
Everything related to home and family is fabulous today! Enjoy schmoozing with family members and entertaining at home. You also might be busy with repairs, errands and upbeat conversations.

SCORPIO
(OCT. 23-NOV. 21).
This is a marvelous day to socialize, especially with siblings, relatives and neighbors. Enjoy talking to younger people. You have a strong need to communicate, which is why you will reach out to others.

SAGITTARIUS
(NOV. 22-DEC. 21).
Financial matters will go your way today. You might see ways to boost your income. You also can attract money to you. If shopping, you want to buy beautiful things for yourself and loved ones.

CAPRICORN
(DEC. 22-JAN. 19).
This is a lovely day! The Sun is in your sign, and the Moon is lined up with Mercury and Venus also in your sign. Yes, it's raining horseshoes! You feel happy, relaxed and enthusiastic when talking to others.

AQUARIUS
(JAN. 20-FEB. 18).
This is a quiet, gentle day that will bring a smile to your face. You might enjoy time alone because you want to ponder profundity. You also might choose to work behind the scenes or in a low-key way.

PISCES
(FEB. 19-MARCH 20).
This is a truly social, fun-loving day! Relations with friends as well as your interaction with groups, clubs and organizations will be rewarding and fun-filled. Things are so cozy, a friend might become a lover.

— Georgia Nicols

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PREVIOUS SUDOKU SOLUTION

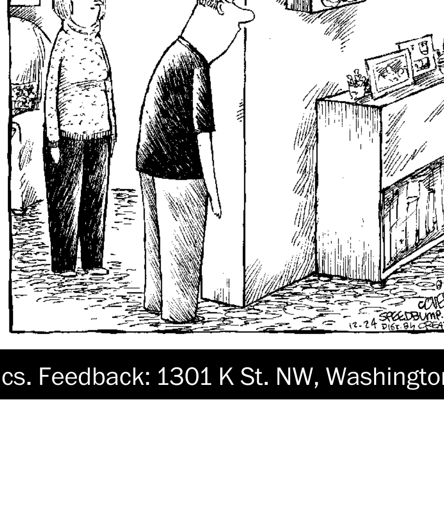
7	9	6	2	4	3	1	8	5
1	8	5	6	7	9	3	4	2
2	3	4	8	5	1	7	6	9
8	7	9	1	3	2	4	5	6
5	6	1	9	8	4	2	3	7
4	2	3	7	6	5	9	1	8
3	1	8	5	9	7	6	2	4
9	5	2	4	1	6	8	7	3
6	4	7	3	2	8	5	9	1

PREVIOUS SCRABBLEGRAMS SOLUTION

E_1	S_1	C_3	A_1	P_3	E_1		RACK 1 =	16
S_1	U_1	F_4	F_4	I_1	C_3	E_1	RACK 2 =	65
M_3	A_1	N_1	H_4	O_1	O_1	D_2	RACK 3 =	76
N_1	U_1	L_1	L_1	I_1	F_4	Y_4	RACK 4 =	63

PAR SCORE 155-165 TOTAL 220

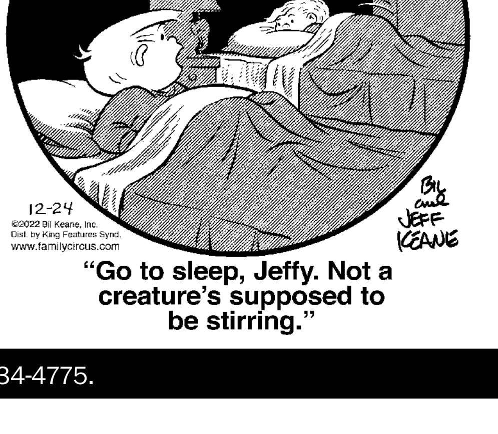
SPEED BUMP DAVE COVERLY



DENNIS THE MENACE H. KETCHAM

"MERRY CHRISTMAS, SANTA!"

FAMILY CIRCUS BIL KEANE



"Go to sleep, Jeffy. Not a creature's supposed to be stirring."

REPLY ALL LITE DONNA A. LEWIS

The Washington Post
SPORTS
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 24, 2022 M2 D

JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Capitals captain Alex Ovechkin acknowledges the applause at Capital One Arena on Friday after he scored an empty-netter during the third period against the Jets. His first goal of the night came in the first period.

The Great 802

Ovechkin scores twice in the Capitals' 4-1 win over Winnipeg to pass Howe for second on the NHL's all-time goals list

BY SAMANTHA PELL

Alex Ovechkin took the next step in his pursuit of hockey history Friday night, scoring his 801st and 802nd career goals to pass Gordie Howe for No. 2 on the NHL's all-time list.

The milestone goal was an empty-netter inside the blue line with 1:00 left in the Washington Capitals' 4-1 win over the Winnipeg Jets at Capital One Arena. The home crowd erupted into a frenzy, then watched the longtime captain celebrate in exuberant glee with his teammates on the ice. The Russian star's first goal of the night came off the rush from the circle near the end of the first period.

"It's very emotional," Ovechkin said. "My parents watched it from home. My wife is here, kids here, friends. Doing it with the home crowd, it's special. They give me full support, and this is pretty big. It's a historic moment. It's nice to be in this category of players. It's pretty cool."

The only name above Ovechkin's now is that of "The Great One" — Wayne Gretzky's 894 goals, once believed to be unapproachable, are at the top of the mountain. And given that the 37-year-old Ovechkin's scoring pace has barely slowed as he has aged, it's likely a matter of when — not if — No. 8 passes the legendary No. 99.

"It is just crazy to see, and it is a huge number, and it is a great accomplishment for his game, for his person and for his family, too," longtime Capitals teammate Dmitry Orlov said. "The way he is going now, for sure it is awesome, and you hope he is going to stay healthy — and another day, another milestone."

Ovechkin's no-look, empty-net goal came in a bit of a comedic fashion. After the Jets pulled their goaltender, David Rittich, with just under three minutes left in regulation, the home crowd chanted Ovechkin's name. The crowd was willing Capitals Coach Peter Laviolette to put Ovechkin on the ice for an empty-netter attempt — and the chants only got louder as the clock ticked down.

Ovechkin got on the ice with 1:42 left in the game

SEE **CAPITALS** ON **D6**

Only 'The Great One' remains

Alex Ovechkin's 802nd goal pushed him past "Mr. Hockey," Gordie Howe, for second in NHL history. Here's where the Capitals star stands after Friday's landmark goal:

Gordie Howe
Goals: 801
Games: 1,767
Goals per game: 0.45
Career: 1946-1980

Alex Ovechkin
Goals: 802
Games: 1,310
Goals per game: 0.61
Career: 2005-

Wayne Gretzky
Goals: 894
Games: 1,487
Goals per game: 0.60
Career: 1979-1999

Capitals at Rangers | Tuesday, 7 p.m., NBC Sports Washington Plus

Robinson gives Commanders a jolt, even if they don't give him ball a lot

BY NICKI JHABVALA

The Washington Commanders found their identity midseason, when Taylor Heinicke took over at quarterback and the focus turned to the running game.

Entering the season, Coach Ron Rivera envisioned using a running back tandem, similar to what he had with the Carolina Panthers. The Commanders drafted Brian Robinson Jr. in the third round out of Alabama in the spring and altered the role of Antonio Gibson, their feature back the past two seasons. But it wasn't until Week 5 when the vision started to take shape.

After recovering from being shot during an armed robbery attempt in August, Robinson made his NFL debut to a standing ovation and quickly provided a glimpse of what he could do in Washington's offense.

Robinson's production and rushing efficiency have improved each week, which has helped reinvigorate an offense that lagged in nearly all facets. Over the past nine games, the Commanders have gone

SEE **COMMANDERS** ON **D3**

Commanders at 49ers
Today, 4 p.m., CBS

PRO BASKETBALL

Behind big performances by Joel Embiid and James Harden, the 76ers win their seventh straight game. **D2**

PRO BASKETBALL

The Wizards are finally starting to get healthy. **D2** For coverage of their late game, visit **POSTSPORTS.COM.**

PRO FOOTBALL

Jets wide receivers coach Miles Austin is suspended for at least a year for violating NFL's gambling policy. **D3**

For Jackson and Ravens, trade might be only reasonable move

On the NFL
JASON LA CANFORA

Through the first three weeks of this NFL season, Lamar Jackson was performing beyond even his 2019 MVP form, the Baltimore Ravens' downfield passing game seemed poised to join the league's elite, and rival executives were wondering just how high the quarterback's price tag would soar as he played out the final few months of his rookie deal.

My, how things have changed.

Baltimore's passing game is again lagging at the bottom of the NFL, Jackson was injured operating inside the pocket (not on the move) for the second straight year, and backup Tyler Huntley is floundering. This perpetually wide-receiver-bereft franchise is incredibly short on pass-catching talent yet again. Baltimore's wideouts rank 31st in yards and 32nd in yards per reception since Week 4; no Ravens wide receiver has

SEE **ON THE NFL** ON **D5**

Falcons at Ravens
Today, 1 p.m., Fox

DIGEST

BASEBALL

Giants agree to a deal with ex-Met Conforto

Outfielder **Michael Conforto** agreed to a two-year, $36 million contract with the San Francisco Giants, a deal that includes an opt-out after the first season, a person with direct knowledge of the pact said Friday.

The person spoke to the Associated Press on the condition of anonymity because the contract is pending a successful physical. Conforto missed all of last season after having right shoulder surgery.

The Giants lost out on shortstop **Carlos Correa** earlier in the week when a concern about his surgically repaired right ankle arose during the medical evaluation process. Correa's 13-year, $350 million deal fell through, and he agreed instead with the New York Mets on a 12-year, $315 million contract.

San Francisco went 81-81 this year and missed the playoffs after winning a franchise-record 107 games and the National League West in 2021.

The Giants should have a talented, experienced outfield in 2023. **Mitch Haniger** agreed to a three-year, $43.5 million deal this month, and versatile **Mike Yastrzemski** returns.

Conforto had the surgery in April. The 29-year-old spent his first 6½ major league seasons with the Mets before becoming a free agent after the 2021 season. He turned down an $18.4 million qualifying offer from New York in November last year. . . .

Left-hander **Drew Smyly** is staying with the Chicago Cubs, agreeing to a two-year, $19 million contract.

Two people familiar with the negotiations confirmed the deal to the AP on the condition of anonymity because the contract was pending a successful physical.

Smyly, who has an opt-out after the 2023 season, will make $8 million next year and $8.5 million in 2024. There is a $10 million mutual option for 2025 with a $2.5 million buyout.

The 33-year-old Smyly went 7-8 with a 3.47 ERA in 22 starts for the Cubs this year.

Smyly joins a group of potential starters that includes **Marcus Stroman**, **Jameson Taillon** and **Kyle Hendricks**.

Chicago went 74-88 this year and finished third in the NL Central. But it went 40-31 in its last 71 games. The rotation had a 2.89 ERA after the all-star break.

Smyly's deal is part of a flurry of moves by the Cubs. They finalized contracts with all-star shortstop **Dansby Swanson**, 2019 NL MVP **Cody Bellinger** and Taillon. They also agreed to terms with Gold Glove-winning catcher **Tucker Barnhart**, pending a physical. . . .

The Arizona Diamondbacks acquired highly regarded catching prospect **Gabriel Moreno** and veteran outfielder **Lourdes Gurriel Jr.**, sending slugger **Daulton Varsho** to the Toronto Blue Jays.

The 22-year-old Moreno is one of the game's top prospects. He made the majors last year with the Blue Jays, hitting .319 with a homer in 69 at-bats. The 29-year-old Gurriel is a five-year veteran who hit .291 with five homers and 32 doubles last season.

The Blue Jays get the versatile Varsho, who was arguably the best player on the Diamondbacks last season. The 26-year-old hit a career-high 27 homers in 2022. He is an excellent defender in the outfield who also has the ability to play catcher.

Moreno and Gurriel are both right-handed hitters, which allows the Diamondbacks to balance their left-handed-heavy lineup.

Varsho is a left-handed hitter and was part of Arizona's group of young, talented outfielders that includes **Corbin Carroll**, **Alek Thomas**, **Jake McCarthy**, **Stone Garrett** and **Pavin Smith**. The Diamondbacks are trying to compete in the loaded NL West, which includes the big-spending Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego Padres.

To make room on the 40-man roster for both players, Arizona designated catcher **Ali Sánchez** for assignment.

SOCCER

France World Cup winner **Blaise Matuidi** announced his retirement from soccer.

The 35-year-old Matuidi won the World Cup in 2018 and made the last of his 84 appearances for Les Bleus three years ago.

"Football, I loved you so much. Football, you gave me so much, but the time has come to say stop," Matuidi wrote on Twitter. "I've achieved my dreams as a child, as a man. It's with a lump in my throat that I'm turning the page now."

A tough ball-winner with great stamina and good passing skills, the midfielder also had an eye for the goal when he pushed forward. He won four French league titles with Paris Saint-Germain and three straight in Italy with Juventus.

After playing two seasons in MLS with Inter Miami, he was without a club this year. . . .

George Cohen, a defender who played on England's World Cup-winning team in 1966, died at 83, the English Football Association said. No cause was given.

Cohen played every minute of England's victorious campaign on home soil. He made 37 appearances for his national team as a right back.

Cohen played his entire club career for Fulham, where he made 459 appearances between 1956 and 1969. He retired from playing at 29 after a serious knee injury. . . .

Fresh off a solid performance at his fifth World Cup, Mexico goalkeeper **Guillermo Ochoa** is going back to Europe after signing a contract with Salernitana in Italy's Serie A.

Salernitana announced that Ochoa signed a deal through the end of the season with an option for an extension.

The 37-year-old Ochoa had been playing for America in Mexico. . . .

Midfielder **Maxi Moralez** is rejoining Argentina's Racing after six seasons with New York City FC in MLS.

The 35-year-old had 36 goals and 60 assists in 194 games over all competitions, helping NYC win the 2021 MLS title.

"My family and I have decided to return to Argentina, my country, after a very long time," he said in a statement. "It was a very difficult and personal decision for me, one of the most difficult decisions in my career."

Morales played from Racing from 2005 to 2007, went to Moscow, then was loaned back. He spent 2009 to 2011 at Vélez Sársfield and went to Italy with Atalanta from 2011 to 2015, then to Mexico's León from 2016 to 2017. . . .

Cameroon goalkeeper **André Onana** ended his career with the national team one month after the 26-year-old was sent home from the World Cup in a dispute with Coach **Rigobert Song**.

The Inter Milan player posted a statement on his Twitter account saying, "My story with the Cameroonian national team has come to an end.

"Players come and go, names are fleeting, but Cameroon comes before any person or player," Onana wrote, without citing reasons for his decision. "Cameroon remains eternal and so does my love for the national team."

The last of Onana's 34 international games was the 1-0 loss to Switzerland on Nov. 24 at the World Cup in Qatar. . . .

The Asian Champions League is set to be revamped in 2024-25 as part of moves that should add a third club soccer competition for the continent.

The marquee Champions League would be cut to 24 teams instead of the current 40, playing eight guaranteed games in an opening league stage instead of six in a traditional group stage, the Asian Football Confederation said.

The proposal echoes changes in Europe's Champions League that take effect with a new, 36-team league stage in 2024 before the knockout rounds. . . .

Police are investigating crowd trouble that left a 15-year-old girl with a head injury at Manchester City's 3-2 win over Liverpool in the English League Cup on Thursday night at Etihad Stadium.

— From news services

TELEVISION AND RADIO

NFL

1 p.m.	**Atlanta at Baltimore** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45), WBAL (1090 AM), WBAL (101.5 FM), WIYY (97.9 FM)
4:05 p.m.	**Washington at San Francisco** » WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13), WBIG (100.3 FM)
4:25 p.m.	**Philadelphia at Dallas** » WTTG (Ch. 5), WBFF (Ch. 45)
8:15 p.m.	**Las Vegas at Pittsburgh** » NFL Network, WJFK (106.7 FM)

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

8 p.m.	**Hawaii Bowl: Middle Tennessee vs. San Diego State** » ESPN

SOCCER

11 a.m.	**Turkish Super Lig: Fenerbahce at Trabzonspor** » beIN Sports

TENNIS

9 a.m.	**World Tennis League, final: Hawks vs. Kites** » Tennis Channel

At long last, Wizards are beginning to get healthy

BY KAREEM COPELAND

RICK BOWMER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Rui Hachimura returned to the Wizards on Thursday after he missed 16 games with an injured ankle.

SALT LAKE CITY — The low tone in Rui Hachimura's voice gave a hint of what the past month has been like for the 2019 No. 9 overall draft pick. He had just played his first game for the Washington Wizards in 34 days after a bone bruise in his ankle took much longer to heal than originally anticipated, and during that span all Hachimura could do was watch helplessly as the team lost 10 straight and teammates went in and out of the lineup with a variety of ailments.

The Wizards (12-21) won just three of 16 games with Hachimura out.

"I was just on the sideline watching my teammates losing the game," Hachiumra said before hustling to the bus after a 120-112 loss to the Utah Jazz. "So, you know, it was tough for me."

Hachimura was no savior Thursday night and certainly isn't expected to be, but his return brought some optimism the team is getting healthier. That optimism was tempered by the fact that Kristaps Porzingis (non-covid illness) missed his second straight game and Deni Avdija was held out after tweaking his back during the morning's shoot-around. But help seems to be on the way.

Porzingis's illness is not a long-term issue, and Avdija is listed as day-to-day. Wizards Coach Wes Unseld Jr. said Delon Wright (hamstring) has been playing three-on-three and was available to play in Friday's late game at the Sacramento Kings.

Every team in the NBA deals with injuries, but the Wizards have been hit particularly hard. As of Monday, Washington ranked fourth in the league in lost value over replacement player because of injury, according to ManGamesLost.com. Bradley Beal, Wright and Hachimura have missed a combined 57 games. Add 17 more among Porzingis, Corey Kispert and Monte Morris, and that's a lot of absences for core members of the rotation. The Wizards have used 10 starting lineups in 33 games entering Friday. Building chemistry and continuity has been difficult for a team that began the season with playoff aspirations.

Jazz Coach Will Hardy said it was tough to scout Washington because of all the moving parts.

"In a situation like Washington, you have to try to go back and find games where everybody's healthy," Hardy said, "because you just want to see how the balance of power is when everybody is healthy. We have to go back and find the games where we feel like it's a good representation of what a team looks like when they're whole."

Kyle Kuzma, who has started all but one game this season, leaned back in his chair inside the visiting locker room of Vivint Arena after the 14th loss in 16 games, tired of the excuses. He wasn't happy with the team's record before the injuries began to pile up, but the Wizards started 3-1 before Wright went down.

"Obviously, you want to be healthy," Kuzma said, "and a lot of our losses, and maybe not knowing how to play with each other, comes from [not] being healthy. But at the end of the day, we've all got to be better."

That lack of time together has compounded the chemistry issues. Morris, Wright and Will Barton are all in their first season with the team. Porzingis was acquired last season after Beal was lost for the remainder of the campaign after having wrist surgery, so that playing relationship is still fairly fresh. Jordan Goodwin is in the rotation for the first time after playing just two games as a rookie last season. That's a lot of people who have limited court time together.

WIZARDS' NEXT THREE

vs. Philadelphia 76ers

Tuesday	7	NBCSW

vs. Phoenix Suns

Wednesday	7	NBCSW

at Orlando Magic

Friday	7	NBCSW

Radio: WTEM (980 AM)

"It's tough sometimes because as guys get hurt, it's always the next-man-up mentality," Kuzma said. "Guys come in, and it's exciting because you have an opportunity to do a little bit more, usually, when you don't have a healthy roster. But at the same time, it causes a lot of friction. Missing Deni tonight was tough. Probably would have helped a little bit with four perimeter players [on the Jazz] scoring [almost] 20."

Unseld often notes no one is going to feel sorry for his team, but it's easy to assume more time together as a whole unit could have positively impacted these Wizards.

"It was a big obstacle we had to get over when we had the 10-game losing streak," Daniel Gafford said. "But we stuck together, and we kept fighting. That's the main thing. We stayed locked in. We came in every day with the mind-set just to be better than the day before. Main mind-set throughout that little stretch — we're getting guys back and we're going to keep it moving."

Unseld added: "Unfortunate in the moment, but I think at some point we'll get all our bodies back. And we'll be whole."

NBA ROUNDUP

Embiid, Harden help 76ers clinch 7-0 homestand

76ERS 119, CLIPPERS 114

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MATT SLOCUM/ASSOCIATED PRESS

James Harden, above, tied Philadelphia's single-game record with a career-high 21 assists Friday, and Joel Embiid scored 44 points.

Joel Embiid scored 44 points, James Harden had a career-high 21 assists in a triple-double, and the Philadelphia 76ers overcame a 20-point first-half deficit to beat the visiting Los Angeles Clippers, 119-114, on Friday night.

Harden also had 20 points and 11 rebounds to help Philadelphia sweep a seven-game homestand and improve to 19-12. Harden tied Wilt Chamberlain and Maurice Cheeks for the franchise single-game assist record.

Philadelphia Coach Doc Rivers called a timeout after Nicolas Batum's three-pointer gave the Clippers a 108-107 lead with four minutes left. The 76ers then went on a 10-0 run.

Kawhi Leonard had 28 points on 12-for-19 shooting for Los Angeles. Paul George added 22 points, and Norman Powell had 21.

• **NETS 118, BUCKS 100:** In New York, Kevin Durant scored 24 points and Brooklyn held Giannis Antetokounmpo scoreless in the fourth quarter as the Nets won their eighth straight to match their longest winning streak since they moved to Brooklyn a decade ago.

Nic Claxton made his first nine shots and finished 9 for 10 for a season-high-tying 19 points for the Nets, who have won 12 of their past 13 games.

After scoring 91 points in the first half Wednesday against Golden State, the third-highest total in NBA history, the Nets had to win a different type of game against a Bucks team that came in with an NBA-leading 22-9 record.

• **MAVERICKS 112, ROCKETS 106:** Luka Doncic scored a season-high 50 points, including 17 in the fourth quarter, and Dallas held on to win in Houston.

Doncic, who also had 10 assists and eight rebounds, was 17 for 30 from the field, including 6 for 12 on three-pointers. It was Doncic's second career 50-point game. He scored a career-high 51 against the Clippers in February.

Spencer Dinwiddie and Davis Bertans each scored 11 points for the Mavericks, who made 16 of 44 from beyond the arc.

Jabari Smith Jr. finished with 24 points and 10 rebounds for Houston, which lost its fifth straight.

• **CELTICS 121, TIMBERWOLVES 109:** Jaylen Brown scored 23 of his 36 points in the fourth quarter to help Boston pull away from visiting Minnesota and snap a season-worst three-game skid.

Jayson Tatum had 30 points, eight rebounds and five assists; Derrick White scored 18; and Al Horford finished with 17 points for the Celtics.

Boston (23-10) won for only the second time in seven games but moved back atop the NBA standings.

Anthony Edwards led the Timberwolves with 30 points.

• **HAWKS 130, PISTONS 105:** Trae Young had 26 points and 13 assists, Dejounte Murray added 26 points, and Atlanta used a dominant third quarter to handle struggling Detroit at home.

Bogdan Bogdanovic finished with 19 points, and Clint Capela, returning after missing the past three games with a right calf strain, finished with 10 rebounds and 10 points for the Hawks, who have won three of four to improve to 17-16.

Bojan Bogdanovic scored 23 for the NBA-worst Pistons, who have lost five straight.

• **MAGIC 133, SPURS 113:** Cole Anthony had 23 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists; Franz Wagner added 21 points; and host Orlando pulled away late for its eighth victory in nine games.

Paolo Banchero had 18 points and six rebounds, and Mo Bamba broke open a close game with three three-pointers during a 51-second span of the fourth quarter.

Keldon Johnson led San Antonio with 17 points.

• **RAPTORS 118, CAVALIERS 107:** Pascal Siakam had 26 points and nine assists and O.G. Anunoby scored 26 points as Toronto became the first Eastern Conference team to win in Cleveland this season.

Scottie Barnes scored 25 points and Fred VanVleet added 18, helping Toronto beat the Cavaliers for the third time in three games this season. The Raptors made a season-high 19 three-pointers.

Siakam, who scored a career-high 52 points Wednesday against the Knicks in New York, also had seven assists.

• **BULLS 118, KNICKS 117:** DeMar DeRozan's jumper with less than a second remaining vaulted Chicago past New York at Madison Square Garden.

DeRozan finished with 25 points in Chicago's third straight victory. Zach LaVine led the Bulls with 33 points, and Nikola Vucevic added 25.

RJ Barrett led the Knicks with a season-high 44 points. Julius Randle finished with 29 points and 12 rebounds.

The Bulls' comeback from a six-point deficit in the fourth quarter was aided by poor foul shooting by the Knicks, who finished 15 for 26 from the line, including four misses in the final 1:06.

• **PACERS 111, HEAT 108:** Tyrese Haliburton buried a three-pointer in the final seconds and finished with a career-high 43 points to propel Indiana to a victory in Miami.

Haliburton's winning shot with just over four seconds left was his team-record 10th three-pointer of the game. He was coming off a 33-point game in a win at Boston on Wednesday.

Against the Heat he shot 14 for 20 from the field and 10 for 16 from long distance.

Tyler Herro led Miami with 28 points.

NFL NOTES

Jets coach banned for gambling infraction

FROM NEWS SERVICES AND STAFF REPORTS

New York Jets wide receivers coach Miles Austin was suspended by the NFL for a minimum of one year for violating the league's gambling policy.

NFL spokesman Brian McCarthy on Friday confirmed the suspension, which Austin is appealing. McCarthy added the league would have no further comment until the appeal is resolved.

The former NFL wide receiver did not coach in the Jets' 19-3 loss to the Jacksonville Jaguars on Thursday night.

Austin's attorney and agent, William P. Deni Jr., said in a statement emailed to the Associated Press that Austin did not gamble on football.

"The NFL suspended Miles Austin for wagering from a legal mobile account on table games and non-NFL professional sports," Deni said. "Miles did not wager on any NFL game in violation of the gambling policy for NFL personnel. He has been fully cooperative with the NFL's investigation. He is appealing his suspension."

Per the NFL's gambling policy for personnel, wagering on sports — even if not NFL games — is a violation.

• **RAMS:** Aaron Donald is doubtful to return to the team's defense this season.

Donald will miss his fourth straight game with a high ankle sprain Sunday when the Rams (4-10) host the Denver Broncos.

"He's not cleared yet, and I don't know that I see that changing in the next couple of weeks," Coach Sean McVay said.

• **PACKERS:** Green Bay's Elgton Jenkins signed a contract extension that assures the Packers won't lose one of the NFL's most versatile offensive linemen to free agency.

Terms weren't disclosed, but a person familiar with the situation said Jenkins received a four-year extension with a base value of $68 million that could go up to $74 million.

• **BROWNS:** Right tackle Jack Conklin made it clear he didn't want to leave Cleveland.

The feeling was mutual.

Conklin agreed to a four-year, $60 million extension to stay with the Browns, who continue to invest in their solid offensive line.

• **RAVENS:** Baltimore waived linebacker Josh Bynes and signed defensive tackle Isaiah Mack to the 53-man roster.

The Ravens also elevated quarterback Anthony Brown and wide receiver Andy Isabella from the practice squad for Saturday's game against the Atlanta Falcons.

Brown gives the Ravens another quarterback option along with Tyler Huntley — with Lamar Jackson set to miss a third straight game with a knee injury.

— Associated Press

• **MISC.:** Mortgage company executive Mat Ishbia ended his attempt to purchase the Washington Commanders after reaching an agreement this week to buy the NBA's Phoenix Suns and WNBA's Phoenix Mercury.

Ishbia, the chairman and CEO of United Wholesale Mortgage, "is no longer pursuing the Commanders," a spokesman for him said Friday.

In early November, soon after the Commanders said owners Daniel and Tanya Snyder hired an investment bank to "consider potential transactions" for the franchise, Ishbia said in a statement to The Washington Post that he was "interested in exploring this opportunity further in the very near future."

He was among the bidders for the NFL's Denver Broncos before they were sold in the summer to a group led by Walmart heir Rob Walton.

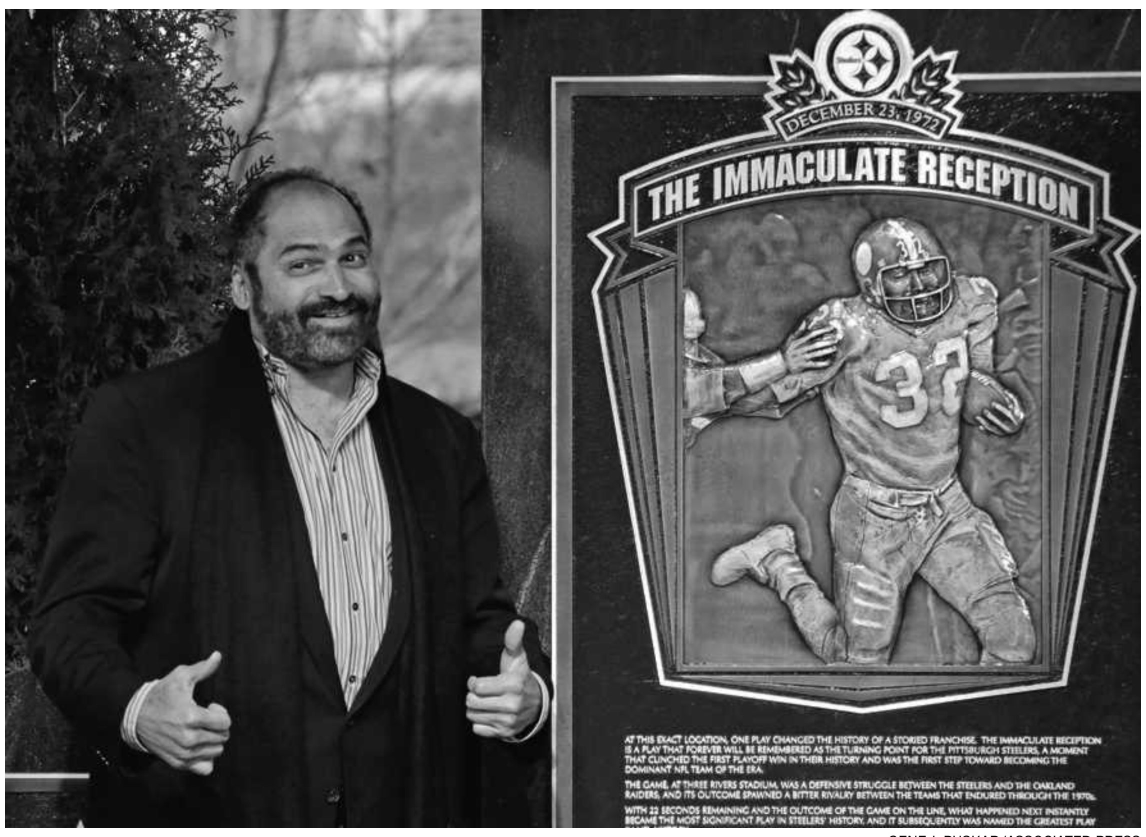
Instead, Ishbia and his brother, Justin, struck a deal to purchase controlling interest in the Suns and Mercury from Robert Sarver.

Ishbia's withdrawal comes as Bank of America moves forward in the Commanders sale, according to people familiar with the process. The team has not said whether the Snyders intend to sell all or part the franchise, but people with knowledge of the process continue to say they believe that a full sale is the most probable outcome. Forbes estimated in August that the Commanders are worth $5.6 billion.

— Mark Maske

Fifty years later, Harris's play remains NFL's most 'Immaculate'

BY SCOTT ALLEN



GENE J. PUSKAR/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Franco Harris died this week, days short of the 50th anniversary of his "Immaculate Reception."

In the days before he died this week at 72, Pittsburgh Steelers Hall of Fame running back Franco Harris did interviews about his central role in the "Immaculate Reception," which occurred 50 years ago Friday and ushered in a dominant era for a franchise that had seven winning seasons and nary a playoff win in four decades of existence.

Reliving the play voted the greatest in NFL history ahead of the league's 100th season in 2019 never seemed to get old for Harris.

"There's still that unbelievable feeling, a little chill in the air," he told WESA, Pittsburgh's NPR news station, on Monday when asked what it was like to see replays of his controversial 60-yard touchdown half a century later. "I'm saying, 'Wow, is that me?' "

On Dec. 23, 1972, the AFC Central champion Steelers hosted the AFC West champion Oakland Raiders in a first-round playoff game at Three Rivers Stadium. Pittsburgh's only previous postseason appearance was a 21-0 loss to the Philadelphia Eagles in 1947.

The Steelers took a 6-0 lead on Roy Gerela's second field goal with less than four minutes remaining, and that figured to be enough for a Pittsburgh defense that hadn't allowed a touchdown in its final three regular season games. But backup quarterback Ken Stabler capped an 80-yard drive with a 30-yard touchdown run on a busted play on Oakland's ensuing possession, putting the Raiders ahead 7-6 with 1:13 to play and setting the stage for Harris's heroics.

On fourth and 10 at the Pittsburgh 40-yard line with 22 seconds on the clock, Steelers quarterback Terry Bradshaw dropped back, rolled to his right and rifled a pass in the direction of running back John "Frenchy" Fuqua over the middle.

Jack Tatum, the Raiders' hard-hitting safety, broke on the ball and collided with Fuqua just as it arrived at the Oakland 35-yard line. Tatum's right forearm caught Fuqua in the head, knocking him to the turf. The ball ricocheted back toward midfield and hung in the air just long enough for Harris to snatch it before it hit the ground. Harris headed toward the sideline, stiff-armed Raiders defensive back Jimmy Warren at the 15-yard line and raced into the end zone with five seconds remaining.

"Right place at the right time," a smiling Harris said in the Steelers' locker room after the game. "A little bit of luck."

Harris's assignment on the play — 66 Option — was to block the outside linebacker. In interviews over the ensuing years, Harris, who was a rookie in 1972, mentioned a mantra that had been instilled in him by Coach Joe Paterno during his college career at Penn State and had served him well: "Go to the ball." Harris had started upfield a couple seconds before Bradshaw's toss.

"Don't ask me what happened next," Bradshaw told reporters afterward. "Somebody decked me, but I heard the shouting. When I got up, there was Franco, at the 5, going to the flags. I was a whoopin' and a hollerin' all the way down to kiss him."

Bradshaw wasn't the only one unsure what had transpired. There was confusion and controversy, which only added to the mystique of the play. At issue was whether Bradshaw's pass ricocheted off Tatum or Fuqua; an NFL rule at the time prohibited consecutive touches by offensive players.

Tatum maintained he didn't touch the ball.

"I heard the ball bounce away from Tatum and me and said to myself, 'Well, that's all for this year,' " Fuqua told reporters. "I never really saw the ball hit Tatum or anybody. I heard it. Then I was flattened and was laying there when everybody started going crazy."

As hundreds of fans poured out of the stands, referee Fred Swearingen conferred with his crew and then used the phone in the Pittsburgh Pirates' dugout to call the press box. After speaking with Art McNally, the NFL's supervisor of officials, Swearingen emerged from the dugout and signaled touchdown. It took 10 minutes to clear the fans from the field so Gerela could kick the extra point.

Raiders Coach John Madden was convinced the ball never hit Tatum and that Swearingen had called the press box to ask for a ruling based on a television replay. (The league wouldn't introduce instant replay until 1986.) Jim Kensil, the NFL's executive director, denied Madden's claim and said Swearingen was "simply clearing up a confusing situation."

"There was no way they were going to call it any other way with all those people on the field," Madden, still stewing over the outcome of the game, told reporters back in Oakland two days later. "Somebody would have been killed."

In Pittsburgh, the Steelers' first playoff win was the dawn of a new day for the franchise.

"The God of all the losers who have ever been smiled down through a ghostly gray sky yesterday, and in the last desperate seconds of a mean, bitterly fought football game did truly wondrous things," Phil Musick wrote in the Pittsburgh Press. "History would have it no other way. And after 40 endless years of spilling salt and breaking mirrors and walking under ladders, the Steelers were smiled upon by a benevolent fate."

The Steelers lost to the Dolphins, 21-17, in the AFC championship game the following week despite Harris's 16 carries for 76 yards. Pittsburgh returned to the AFC championship game in 1974 and defeated the Raiders en route to winning its first of four Super Bowl titles in the '70s.

"Many have said, and I agree, that the 'Immaculate Reception' marked the turning point in franchise history," Steelers President Art Rooney II said in September, when the team announced Harris would become the third Steelers player to have his number retired at halftime of Saturday night's game against the Las Vegas Raiders.

In a 1997 column for the New York Times to mark the 25th anniversary of Harris's miraculous touchdown, legendary Pittsburgh radio analyst and sportscaster Myron Cope explained the origin of the play's nickname, which he introduced to the masses. As the story goes, a Steelers fan named Michael Ord stood on a chair at a downtown bar after the game, tapped his glass with a spoon and declared, "This day will forever be known as the Feast of the Immaculate Reception!" Ord then convinced his friend, Sharon Levosky, to call the WTAE newsroom and share the clever moniker with Cope.

"I heard out Sharon and said: 'That's fantastic. Let me give it some thought,' " Cope wrote. "The Immaculate Reception? Tasteless? I pondered the matter for 15 seconds and cried out 'Whoopee!' Having conferred upon Franco's touchdown its name for 11 o'clock news viewers to embrace, I accept neither credit nor, should you hold the moniker to be impious, blame."

In the same column, Cope, who was Jewish, declared Franco's catch "kosher" based on a frame-by-frame review of video shot by a WTAE cameraman.

"No question about it — Bradshaw's pass struck Tatum squarely on his right shoulder," Cope wrote. "I mean, I saw it."

Harris could never say for sure whether the ball ricocheted off Tatum or Fuqua, because he didn't remember much of anything about the play before he reached the end zone. The joy the "Immaculate Reception" sparked for him, his teammates and a generation of Steelers fans never faded.

"Fifty years ago," Harris said Tuesday on SiriusXM Radio, "and it still feels brand new."

In Robinson, Commanders have powerful but underused weapon

COMMANDERS FROM **D1**

JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

"You say, 'Man, we really should have given him the ball more than that,' " offensive coordinator Scott Turner said of Brian Robinson Jr.

6-2-1 while averaging 148.0 rushing yards and 8.89 rushing first downs, both of which rank sixth in the NFL.

"I think we can run the football, and we can run the football downhill, and off of that we can be a play-action team, a bootleg team, a physical-up-front team," Rivera said. "It gives our offensive line an opportunity to fire out and not have to catch as much. We've seen that it has been successful, and we've got to continue with that type of mentality."

But on Sunday, in a loss to the New York Giants that made the Commanders' playoff odds significantly longer, Robinson was limited to 12 carries, a number his coaches, in hindsight, agreed should have been higher.

"I would've loved to continue to see if we could have fed him," Rivera said. "Especially if we could have taken advantage of scoring in the red zone because then the game would've been closer. It would've called for something like that where we could have handed the ball."

Added offensive coordinator Scott Turner: "Twelve carries, you look at it and you say, 'Man, we really should have given him the ball more than that.' . . . Because of Brian and how he was running, looking back at it, yeah, you would've liked him to touch it more."

With his downhill running style, Robinson has combined with Gibson to give Washington an enviable mix of power, speed, elusiveness and pass-catching ability in the backfield. Rivera has preached position flexibility across the roster, creating more trouble for opposing defenses and more options for Turner, especially in the red zone.

But apart from a touchdown run negated by a penalty Sunday, Robinson's production inside the 20-yard line has been almost nonexistent in recent weeks. He has had only one red-zone carry over the past three games.

More concerning: He had only two fourth-quarter runs against the Giants, the second of which put the Commanders in the red zone for a shot at a go-ahead touchdown. Robinson went around the left end to pick up 19 yards before getting pushed out of bounds at the New York 11. Instead of leaving him in, the Commanders turned to versatile wide receiver Curtis Samuel, who ran the ball for one yard. The drive ended with a sack and fumble by Heinicke.

"Sometimes it can get frustrating, but also, just being a team player, you also want to see everybody else get their opportunities, too," Robinson said Wednesday. "I play with a lot of great players, and I expect those guys to get just as many opportunities. I think sometimes it can come off as a little selfish. Even though you're successful, it can come off as a little selfish if you don't respect the guys around you, and the fact is they deserve the ball just as much as you."

With more reps, Robinson has proved to be more effective.

In Week 10, he had a career high of 86 rushing yards, which he topped two weeks later with 105 against the Atlanta Falcons.

Over the past four games, Robinson has recorded a rushing EPA (expected points added) of 15.07, the highest among NFL running backs in that span and the second highest among all players; he trails only Philadelphia Eagles quarterback Jalen Hurts. (In this case, EPA measures how many points a player is expected to add by running the ball.)

Robinson, who said he is his own biggest critic, believes his improved patience as a runner has allowed him to play more efficiently.

"That's the biggest leap I had to take from when I first got on the field," he said. "I feel like I was just too fast and too anxious to make a play, so I had to slow that part of my game down, and I feel like it's helped me be a lot more efficient."

Another reason: his physicality.

In Washington's upset of the Eagles, Robinson carried a pair of defenders on his back to gain 11 yards and set up his go-ahead touchdown two plays later. Against the Giants last weekend, Robinson collected at least eight yards after contact on a first-down run that required up to four defenders to bring him down.

"I want to be one of the most physical guys on the field, and I want to show that I'm one of the most physical guys on the field every time I'm on the field," he said. "So that's just part of it. Guys think I'm just going to quit on a play — I'm never going to quit."

On Sunday, the flow of the game made it difficult for the Commanders to get Robinson the ball more. They trailed from the second quarter on and were left to play catch-up with their passing game. And when they finally did use Robinson in the red zone, wide receiver Terry McLaurin was flagged for an illegal formation, so his touchdown was scratched.

Getting Robinson involved early and often will be paramount Saturday against the San Francisco 49ers. But it won't be any easier: San Francisco owns the league's best rushing defense (74.7 yards per game).

"When you have longer drives, obviously there's more opportunities to hand it off," Turner said. "But, again, I got to be aware of that and get him some carries."

NFL WEEK 16

Washington Commanders (7-6-1) at San Francisco 49ers (10-4)

Time: 4:05 p.m. **TV:** WUSA (Ch. 9), WJZ (Ch. 13). **Radio:** WBIG (100.3 FM). **Line:** 49ers by 6½.
For in-game analysis, live stats and discussion, read our live blog at *postsports.com*.

JOHN MCDONNELL/THE WASHINGTON POST

The Commanders will attempt to run the ball effectively to set up play-action pass plays for quarterback Taylor Heinicke vs. the 49ers.

COMMANDERS

ROSTER

1	Jahan Dotson	WR	5-11	182
2	Dyami Brown	WR	6-0	195
4	Taylor Heinicke	QB	6-1	210
5	Tress Way	P	6-1	220
6	Joey Slye	K	5-11	213
8	Brian Robinson	RB	6-1	228
10	Curtis Samuel	WR	5-11	195
11	Carson Wentz	QB	6-5	237
14	Sam Howell	QB	6-1	220
15	Dax Milne	WR	6-0	190
17	Terry McLaurin	WR	6-0	210
20	Bobby McCain	S	5-9	196
22	Darrick Forrest	S	5-11	200
24	Antonio Gibson	RB	6-2	220
25	Benjamin St-Juste	CB	6-3	200
29	Kendall Fuller	CB	5-11	198
31	Kamren Curl	S	6-2	198
34	Christian Holmes	CB	6-1	205
35	Percy Butler	S	6-0	191
36	Danny Johnson	CB	5-9	190
37	Rachad Wildgoose	CB	5-10	191
39	Jeremy Reaves	S	5-11	200
41	Jonathan Williams	RB	6-0	217
45	De'Jon Harris	LB	6-0	245
46	Milo Eifler	LB	6-2	225
47	Khaleke Hudson	LB	6-0	220
51	David Mayo	LB	6-2	240
52	Jamin Davis	LB	6-3	234
53	Trai Turner	G	6-3	320
54	Camaron Cheeseman	LS	6-4	237
58	Shaka Toney	DE	6-2	238
59	Jon Bostic	LB	6-1	245
60	Nick Martin	C	6-4	299
68	Andrew Norwell	G	6-6	310
71	Wes Schweitzer	C/G	6-4	300
72	Charles Leno Jr.	T	6-3	302
75	Chris Paul	G	6-4	324
76	Sam Cosmi	T	6-6	309
77	Saahdiq Charles	G/T	6-4	322
78	Cornelius Lucas	T	6-8	327
82	Logan Thomas	TE	6-6	250
85	Cole Turner	TE	6-6	240
87	John Bates	TE	6-6	259
89	Cam Sims	WR	6-5	220
90	Montez Sweat	DE	6-6	262
91	John Ridgeway	DT	6-5	321
92	Daniel Wise	DT	6-3	285
93	Jonathan Allen	DT	6-3	300
94	Daron Payne	DT	6-3	320
95	Casey Toohill	DE	6-5	254
96	James Smith-Williams	DE	6-4	265
97	Efe Obada	DE	6-6	265
99	Chase Young	DE	6-5	264

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

QB	Taylor Heinicke	Carson Wentz
RB	Brian Robinson Jr.	Antonio Gibson
WR	Terry McLaurin	Dyami Brown
WR	Jahan Dotson	Cam Sims
WR	Curtis Samuel	Dax Milne
TE	Logan Thomas	John Bates
LT	Charles Leno Jr.	Cornelius Lucas
LG	Andrew Norwell	Chris Paul
C	Wes Schweitzer	Nick Martin
RG	Trai Turner	Sam Cosmi
RT	Cornelius Lucas	Sam Cosmi

DEFENSE AND SPECIAL TEAMS

LDE	Chase Young	James Smith-Williams
LDT	Daron Payne	Daniel Wise
RDT	Jonathan Allen	John Ridgeway
RDE	Montez Sweat	Casey Toohill
OLB	Jamin Davis	Milo Eifler
MLB	Jon Bostic	David Mayo
CB	Kendall Fuller	Christian Holmes
SS	Kam Curl	Jeremy Reaves
NS	Darrick Forrest	Percy Butler
FS	Bobby McCain	Danny Johnson
CB	Benjamin St-Juste	Christian Holmes
K	Joey Slye	
P	Tress Way	
H	Tress Way	
PR	Dax Milne	Jahan Dotson
KR	Dax Milne	Antonio Gibson
LS	Camaron Cheeseman	

49ERS

ROSTER

1	Jimmie Ward	DB	5-11	195
3	Ray-Ray McCloud III	WR	5-9	190
6	Danny Gray	WR	6-0	200
7	Charvarius Ward	CB	6-1	196
9	Robbie Gould	K	6-0	190
10	Jimmy Garoppolo	QB	6-2	225
11	Brandon Aiyuk	WR	6-0	200
11	Josh Johnson	QB	6-3	205
13	Brock Purdy	QB	6-1	220
15	Jauan Jennings	WR	6-3	212
18	Mitch Wishnowsky	P	6-2	220
19	Deebo Samuel	WR	6-0	215
20	Ambry Thomas	CB	6-0	190
23	Christian McCaffrey	RB	5-11	205
24	Jordan Mason	RB	5-11	223
26	Samuel Womack III	CB	5-10	189
29	Talanoa Hufanga	S	6-0	200
30	George Odum	S	6-1	202
31	Tashaun Gipson Sr.	S	6-1	212
32	Tyrion Davis-Price	RB	6-1	219
33	Tarvarius Moore	DB	6-2	200
38	Deommodore Lenoir	DB	5-10	200
44	Kyle Juszczyk	FB	6-2	235
45	Demetrius Flannigan-Fowles	LB	6-2	223
46	Taybor Pepper	LS	6-4	245
48	Oren Burks	LB	6-3	233
51	Azeez Al-Shaair	LB	6-2	228
54	Fred Warner	LB	6-3	230
55	Akeem Spence	DL	6-1	307
56	Samson Ebukam	DL	6-3	245
57	Dre Greenlaw	LB	6-0	230
59	Curtis Robinson	LB	6-3	235
60	Daniel Brunskill	OL	6-5	300
63	Nick Zakelj	OL	6-6	316
64	Jake Brendel	OL	6-4	299
65	Aaron Banks	OL	6-5	325
68	Colton McKivitz	OL	6-6	301
69	Mike McGlinchey	T	6-8	310
71	Trent Williams	T	6-5	320
74	Spencer Burford	OL	6-4	300
76	Jaylon Moore	OL	6-4	311
81	Tyler Kroft	TE	6-6	252
82	Ross Dwelley	TE	6-5	235
85	George Kittle	TE	6-4	250
89	Charlie Woerner	TE	6-5	241
90	Kevin Givens	DL	6-1	285
91	Arik Armstead	DL	6-7	290
92	Kerry Hyder Jr.	DL	6-2	275
94	Charles Omenihu	DL	6-5	280
95	Drake Jackson	DL	6-4	273
96	T.Y. McGill	DT	6-0	295
97	Nick Bosa	DL	6-4	266

DEPTH CHART

OFFENSE

QB	Brock Purdy	Josh Johnson
RB	Christian McCaffrey	Jordan Mason
WR	Jauan Jennings	Danny Gray
WR	Brandon Aiyuk	Ray-Ray McCloud III
TE	George Kittle	Tyler Kroft
FB	Kyle Juszczyk	
LT	Trent Williams	Colton McKivitz
LG	Aaron Banks	
C	Jake Brendel	Daniel Brunskill
RG	Spencer Burford	Nick Zakelj
RT	Mike McGlinchey	Jaylon Moore

DEFENSE AND SPECIAL TEAMS

LDE	Samson Ebukam	Kerry Hyder Jr.
LDT	Javon Kinlaw	T.Y. McGill
RDT	Arik Armstead	Akeem Spence
RDE	Nick Bosa	Charles Omenihu
WLB	Dre Greenlaw	Oren Burks
MLB	Fred Warner	
SLB	Azeez Al-Shaair	D. Flannigan-Fowles
LCB	Charvarius Ward	Samuel Womack III
SS	Talanoa Hufanga	George Odum
FS	Jimmie Ward	Tashaun Gipson Sr.
RCB	Deommodore Lenoir	Ambry Thomas
K	Robbie Gould	
P	Mitch Wishnowsky	
H	Mitch Wishnowsky	
PR	Ray-Ray McCloud III	Brandon Aiyuk
KR	Ray-Ray McCloud III	Danny Gray
LS	Taybor Pepper	

KEYS TO THE GAME

KEEP A CAP ON DEFENSE

Seemingly the biggest key to the Commanders' game plan is defense. For Washington's run-first offensive approach to remain feasible, the defense must keep the game close by limiting a 49ers offense with talented playmakers, such as running back Christian McCaffrey, tight end George Kittle and wide receiver Brandon Aiyuk. Washington should have some optimism because San Francisco's offense has been less aggressive since Brock Purdy became the starter following Jimmy Garoppolo's foot injury, former NFL tight end and Commanders broadcaster Logan Paulsen said. If versatile safety Kam Curl (ankle) can't play, it would be a big blow. In the past two seasons, Curl has often drawn the opponent's toughest matchup, including McCaffrey last year when he played for the Panthers. One major key for Washington is to continue stopping the run with a light box so defensive coordinator Jack Del Rio can devote more players to coverage, which would lessen the odds of an explosive play.

STICK TO THE PLAN ON OFFENSE

If Washington can keep the game close, offensive coordinator Scott Turner can lean on the strength of his unit and call physical, downhill runs, such as duo, power and inside zone. Paulsen pointed out San Francisco's fast, athletic defensive line has beaten teams that run on the edges, such as Atlanta, but struggled more against blunt force running games, such as Kansas City's. If the run works, Turner can incorporate shots downfield off hard play-action.

STAY DISCIPLINED ON THE DEFENSIVE LINE

Defensive end Chase Young's return for a limited number of snaps Saturday will put a magnifying glass on the discipline and cohesion of the Commanders' front. Last season, Young regularly freelanced as the line splintered, and during his recovery from a significant knee injury this season, as the line became a united force, Young's coaches acknowledged he will have a smaller margin for error if he doesn't want to disrupt the unit. In late November, Rivera said to expect "somewhere around 12 to 16 plays" when Young returned. But on Thursday, when Rivera said Young would be on a snap count, he resisted citing a specific range.

INJURY REPORT

The Commanders will be without offensive tackle Saahdiq Charles (concussion). Curl (ankle) and cornerback Benjamin St-Juste (ankle) are listed as questionable. The 49ers are without quarterback Jimmy Garoppolo (foot), defensive tackle Kevin Givens (knee) and wide receiver Deebo Samuel (ankle/knee). Listed as questionable are defensive end Kerry Hyder (ankle), cornerback Tarvarius Moore (knee), cornerback Ambry Thomas (ankle), running back Jordan Mason (hamstring) and cornerback Charvarius Ward (concussion).

— Sam Fortier

Commanders' schedule

Week 1
at Commanders 28, Jaguars 22

Week 2
at Lions 36, Commanders 27

Week 3
Eagles 24, at Commanders 8

Week 4
at Cowboys 25, Commanders 10

Week 5
Titans 21, at Commanders 17

Week 6
Commanders 12, at Bears 7

Week 7
at Commanders 23, Packers 21

Week 8
Commanders 17, at Colts 16

Week 9
Vikings 20, at Commanders 17

Week 10
Commanders 32, at Eagles 21

Week 11
Commanders 23, at Texans 10

Week 12
at Commanders 19, Falcons 13

Week 13
Commanders 20, at Giants 20 (OT)

Week 14
Bye

Week 15
Giants 20, at Commanders 12

Week 16 at 49ers
Today, 4:05 p.m., CBS

Week 17 vs. Browns
Jan. 1, 1 p.m., Fox

Week 18 vs. Cowboys
Jan. 7/8, time and TV TBD

OTHER GAMES

Falcons (5-9) at Ravens (9-5), 1 p.m., WTTG-5, WBFF-45 » Baltimore has fallen out of first place in the AFC North, and it's a measure of how things are going that even kicker Justin Tucker hit a rough patch last Saturday, missing two field goals in a game for the first time since Week 16 in 2018. After getting to 4-4, Atlanta has lost five of its past six games but remains only a game out of first place in the NFC South.

Lions (7-7) at Panthers (5-9), 1 p.m. » The Lions are doing so well that the 2023 first-round pick they obtained from the Los Angeles Rams in the Matthew Stafford trade almost certainly will be significantly better than their original pick based on their own record. Detroit has won six of its past seven games and faces Carolina, Chicago and Green Bay — teams with a combined 14-28 record — down the stretch.

Bills (11-3) at Bears (3-11), 1 p.m. » Josh Allen rallied the Bills from eight points down in the fourth quarter last Saturday in a win over the Dolphins in which he led the team with 77 yards rushing on 10 carries and completed 25 of 40 passes for 304 yards and four touchdowns (with a 119.2 passer rating). Buffalo can clinch the AFC East with a win or a tie against Chicago.

Saints (5-9) at Browns (6-8), 1 p.m. » Deshaun Watson passed for 161 yards and a touchdown last Saturday with a 91.5 passer rating and continues to put up pedestrian numbers since his return from his suspension. Cleveland's defense made the difference against Baltimore, with Myles Garrett accounting for four quarterback pressures (he leads the NFL with 63) and 1.5 sacks on 28 pass rushes.

Seahawks (7-7) at Chiefs (11-3), 1 p.m. » Kansas City has clinched its seventh consecutive AFC West title, and Patrick Mahomes (with five incompletions in the past five quarters) is in the MVP conversation again. One-win Houston extended Kansas City to overtime last week, but Mahomes completed 20 straight passes at one point and 87.8 percent of his passes overall in the Chiefs' win.

Giants (8-5-1) at Vikings (11-3), 1 p.m. » The Vikings, the NFC North champions, continue to make every game an adventure, but they are 10-0 in one-score games and a game ahead of San Francisco for the No. 2 seed in the NFC. In the Vikings' historic comeback against Indianapolis last week, Kirk Cousins passed for 460 yards (417 after halftime!) and four touchdowns (plus two interceptions). Justin Jefferson, who leads the NFL with 1,623 receiving yards, is within reach of Calvin Johnson's single-season record of 1,964 with games remaining against the Packers and Bears after this one.

Bengals (10-4) at Patriots (7-7), 1 p.m. » New England's playoff chances are dropping after Sunday's remarkable loss to Las Vegas, with games against Joe Burrow, Tua Tagovailoa and Josh Allen looming to end the regular season. Cincinnati is peaking at the right time, riding a six-game winning streak, and Burrow is the first NFL quarterback with 75 passing touchdowns and 10 rushing touchdowns in his first 40 career games.

Texans (1-12-1) at Titans (7-7), 1 p.m. » Houston has given Dallas and Kansas City a fight in the past two weeks, and Tennessee is mired in a four-game losing streak that must end if it is to make the playoffs.

Eagles (13-1) at Cowboys (10-4), 4:25 p.m., WTTG-5, WBFF-45 » A loss to Jacksonville ended the Cowboys' four-game winning streak, but thanks to the Giants' win against Washington, they clinched a playoff berth. Philadelphia won these teams' first meeting Oct. 16, but Gardner Minshew II starts Saturday rather than injured MVP candidate Jalen Hurts. The Eagles have some margin for error: They need one win in their final three games to clinch the NFC's top seed.

Raiders (6-8) at Steelers (6-8), 8:15 p.m., NFL Network » Las Vegas and Pittsburgh meet the day after the 50th anniversary of the "Immaculate Reception." The matchup takes on even more meaning after the death this week of Steelers Hall of Fame running back Franco Harris.

Packers (6-8) at Dolphins (8-6), Sunday, 1 p.m., WTTG-5, WBFF-45 » Miami has lost three games in a row for the second time this season, and like Green Bay it is hoping for a strong finish and a wild-card berth. That might be a taller order for the Packers, who have a 12.2 percent chance of making the playoffs entering the week, according to ESPN, and whose final three opponents have a combined 26-16 record.

Broncos (4-10) at Rams (4-10), Sunday, 4:30 p.m., WUSA-9, WJZ-13, Nickelodeon » There's little to be said for either team's prospects, other than to focus on whether coaches Nathaniel Hackett and Sean McVay will return.

Buccaneers (6-8) at Cardinals (4-10), Sunday, 8:20 p.m., WRC-4, WBAL-11 » Tom Brady has had seven turnovers in his past three games after committing four in his first 11. But the Tampa Bay offense's problems don't end with him. The Buccaneers have only four rushing touchdowns this season after they had 18 last year. Still, Tampa Bay leads its division.

Chargers (8-6) at Colts (4-9-1), Monday, 8:15 p.m., ESPN » Indianapolis's collapse last week — blowing a 33-point lead to Minnesota — probably removed any doubt about Jeff Saturday's long-term coaching prospects. And poor Matt Ryan will be replaced by backup Nick Foles this week. Ryan has now come up on the losing end of the biggest comeback in NFL regular season history and in Super Bowl history (when his Falcons lost Super Bowl LI to the Patriots on Feb. 5, 2017). Meanwhile, Justin Herbert rather quietly became the first quarterback to pass for more than 4,000 yards in each of his first three NFL seasons.

— Cindy Boren

AFC

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Buffalo	11	3	0	.786	385	250
Miami	8	6	0	.571	345	344
New England	7	7	0	.500	300	269
N.Y. Jets	7	8	0	.467	284	282

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Tennessee	7	7	0	.500	255	293
Jacksonville	7	8	0	.467	353	331
Indianapolis	4	9	1	.321	245	337
Houston	1	12	1	.107	235	344

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Cincinnati	10	4	0	.714	369	288
Baltimore	9	5	0	.643	304	263
Cleveland	6	8	0	.429	313	326
Pittsburgh	6	8	0	.429	251	309

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Kansas City	11	3	0	.786	414	322
L.A. Chargers	8	6	0	.571	312	340
Las Vegas	6	8	0	.429	338	337
Denver	4	10	0	.286	218	253

NFC

EAST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Philadelphia	13	1	0	.929	411	268
Dallas	10	4	0	.714	394	269
N.Y. Giants	8	5	1	.607	287	312
Washington	7	6	1	.536	265	276

SOUTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Tampa Bay	6	8	0	.429	247	288
Atlanta	5	9	0	.357	306	333
Carolina	5	9	0	.357	276	314
New Orleans	5	9	0	.357	286	315

NORTH	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
Minnesota	11	3	0	.786	351	349
Detroit	7	7	0	.500	369	364
Green Bay	6	8	0	.429	287	314
Chicago	3	11	0	.214	290	358

WEST	W	L	T	PCT.	PF	PA
San Francisco	10	4	0	.714	338	210
Seattle	7	7	0	.500	355	355
Arizona	4	10	0	.286	292	372
L.A. Rams	4	10	0	.286	230	320

ON THE NFL

For Jackson and Ravens, trade could be a way out

ON THE NFL FROM D1

caught a touchdown pass since Week 3.

And while the math (and remaining schedule) would say the Ravens won't totally collapse and miss the playoffs like they did after a 6-2 start a year ago, they certainly don't seem poised to do anything of note in the postseason, with the Bengals already surpassing them in the AFC North standings. The Ravens are averaging less than 10 points per game over the past three weeks, largely without Jackson, who left their Week 13 game with a knee strain, has not practiced since and was ruled out for Saturday's crucial game against Atlanta.

All of it makes you wonder where this years-long contract saga is headed, and there are no shortage of opinions about that eagerly awaited endgame. In the short term, nothing has changed in the estimation of executives, contract negotiators and agents who are paying close attention to the situation. The Ravens will place an exclusive rights franchise tag on Jackson early in the offseason (projected to be in the neighborhood of $45 million fully guaranteed), and if the sides cannot come to a long-term deal by April — I would be quite surprised if they did — then prepare for Lamar Jackson Trade Rumor Season to be in full force as we head toward the draft.

"He has as much leverage now as ever," said one NFL personnel executive whose team faced the Ravens this season, knows their roster well and spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is not permitted to talk freely about other teams. "Not playing is the best thing for him for the contract. They can't score without him. That's not a great team. That's not a great roster. But they win a lot of games because of him."

Jackson is not having a strong season through the air — on the ground he is averaging a robust 6.8 yards per attempt, a shade off his MVP total — but also has been shackled by a lack of winning assets in the passing game outside of all-pro tight end Mark Andrews, who seems bogged down by injuries, does not have a touchdown catch since Week 6 and is having his least impactful season since his rookie year. Offensive coordinator Greg Roman is a run-based schemer who has long been under heavy fire in Baltimore and seems a long shot to be back next season.

And it was hardly lost on Jackson when, at the trade deadline, rather than address a suspect wide receiver room — even with de facto top wideout Rashod Bateman lost for the season — the front office again invested premium resources on the defense instead, trading second- and fifth-round picks for inside linebacker Roquan Smith. Baltimore did add vagabond wideouts DeSean Jackson and Sammy Watkins but also lost its most dynamic remaining wide receiver, Devin Duvernay, to a season-ending foot injury.

"I don't think anything has changed" with how Lamar Jackson values his contractual worth, said another person who has been occasionally privy to details of the Jackson negotiation but is not permitted to speak about them. "Deshaun Watson's [fully guaranteed] deal changed everything."

Jackson's game has not hit a new level — and given the meager cast around him, it's hard to project a takeoff when he does return from his knee injury. But the larger reality is while few of the big 2022 quarterback deals are bearing much fruit, they altered the marketplace. Russell Wilson, Derek Carr, Aaron Rodgers and Watson have not distinguished themselves, but none have the attributes Jackson does, and the cost of quarterback salaries never decreases.

The price point for a deal remains around $50 million a season, according to those I have caucused, and Jackson almost certainly will seek record guarantees. Owner Steve Bisciotti was unwilling to entertain such a deal last year, and he publicly described winning a Super Bowl as the goal for Jackson to achieve such a contract. It's doubtful his stance has changed much with this offense ranking 24th in scoring, 31st in passing yards, tied for 31st in passing touchdowns and dead last in yards per pass since Week 4.

A quarterback of this stature and still this young (he turns 26 in January) playing on the franchise tag is generally a losing proposition for the team, to say nothing of a $45 million cap figure that would complicate roster construction. A trade may be the only way out. In fact, that projects as a less surprising outcome by the week.

Few wideouts available

Teams looking to upgrade at wide receiver this offseason may be in for a frustrating ordeal. Outside of the draft, the options seem bleak.

"There's almost nothing out there," said one general manager who has been preparing for free agency and spoke on the condition of anonymity because he is unable to discuss players under contract to other teams. "They're all already been traded and signed to new contracts or signed extensions with the teams that drafted them."

Indeed, the flurry of blockbuster wide receiver trades in recent years — think Davante Adams, A.J. Brown, Stefon Diggs and Tyreek Hill — has put a lag on the market, and this free agent class looks quite thin. JuJu Smith-Schuster, a possession receiver with injury concerns, leads the potential unrestricted free agent class with 850 receiving yards this season and is the only member of that group with more than 53 catches. Allen Lazard, a limited contributor in Green Bay, leads the class in touchdown receptions with five. And the highest-paid member of that pending free agent class, per Spotrac, is Nelson Agholor, making $11 million in New England this season. He seems unlikely to get back to that price point on the open market.

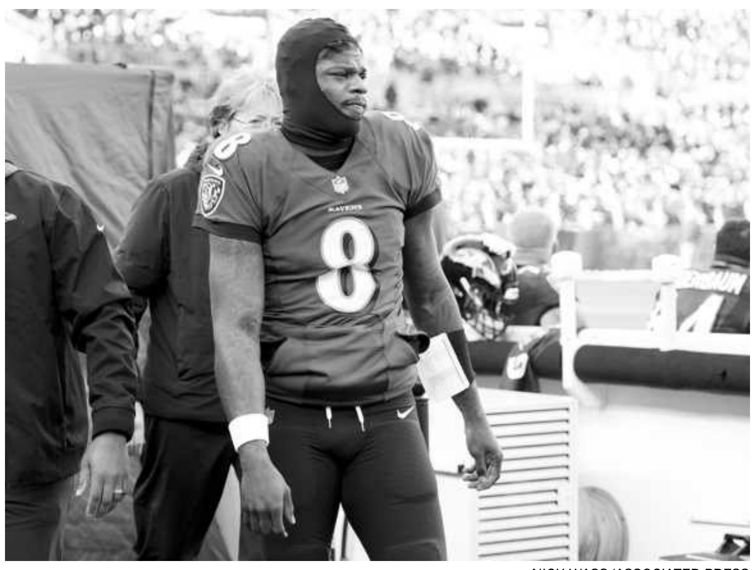
Some evaluators think less heralded players such as Richie James (Giants), Mack Hollins (Raiders) and DeAndre Carter (Chargers) have bolstered their stock, but none of the pending free agent receivers are breaking the bank. Perhaps that will spur more creative trade talks, but it might be a tepid offseason for the diva position.

Notes from around the NFL

One GM's advice to Bears quarterback Justin Fields after watching his recent film, filled with game-changing runs and too many big hits: "Shut it down and tell them you'll be back next year when they get you an offensive line. They're playing with fire running him like this in games they aren't going to win." . . .

The Colts' horrific results — allowing 33 points in the fourth quarter against Dallas and then blowing a 33-point lead against the Vikings — have executives in the league convinced the Jeff Saturday experiment is almost over. Saturday, they say, knows he isn't an NFL head coach, and even if owner Jim Irsay wants him to stay, he's expected to walk away at the end of the season. . . .

One way to measure just how unbalanced the conferences are as we head toward the playoffs: Only four teams in the NFC — Philadelphia (plus-21), Dallas (plus-20), San Francisco (plus-16) and Minnesota (plus-6) — have an even or better net touchdown rating, while nine teams in the AFC fit that description.



NICK WASS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

With his contract situation still unresolved, Ravens quarterback Lamar Jackson and the team have decisions to make on his future.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL ROUNDUP

Late score caps Cougars' rally over Ragin' Cajuns

HOUSTON 23, LA. LAFAYETTE 16

Associated Press

Clayton Tune connected with Nathaniel Dell for a 12-yard touchdown with 20 seconds remaining, and Houston rallied from a 13-point deficit to beat Louisiana Lafayette, 23-16, in the Independence Bowl in Shreveport, La., on Friday.

The touchdown pass was Tune's third of the game and 40th of the season, tying him with Western Kentucky's Austin Reed for the most in the nation. Before the winning throw, he completed a 41-yard pass to KeSean Carter on third and 30 to move Houston into Louisiana Lafayette territory.

The Cougars (8-5) never led until that late touchdown as Tune heated up amid unseasonably cold temperatures in northwest Louisiana. It was 25 degrees at kickoff, with a wind chill of 12 degrees.

"Today was like the rest of the year," Houston coach Dana Holgorsen said. "The conditions were tough, but they handled it fine.

"To be down at halftime and to come back on a two-minute drive and score, that's what the whole season has been about. They created a pretty special memory, to win a bowl game like this."

The Ragin' Cajuns (6-7) led 13-0 midway through the second quarter and 16-6 at halftime.

Tune was named the game's offensive MVP, finishing 19 for 28 for 216 yards, led Houston on a 13-play, 70-yard drive to open the second half and hit Dell for a two-yard touchdown that made it 16-13.

The Ragin' Cajuns wasted a chance to retake the lead when running back Chris Smith fumbled at the Houston 4-yard line.

Louisiana Lafayette, located three hours south of Shreveport, took the opening kick and orchestrated a 15-play, 75-yard drive that ended when tight end Johnny Lumpkin made a dazzling touchdown catch in the corner of the end zone.

The Ragin' Cajuns got three field goals in the first half from Kenneth Almendares (42, 42 and 22 yards). Chandler Fields finished 17-for-25 passing for 169 yards and a touchdown.

• **GASPARILLA BOWL:** Sam Hartman completed 23 of 36 passes for 280 yards and three touchdowns in what was expected to be his final game with Wake Forest, a 27-17 win over Missouri in the Gasparilla Bowl in Tampa.

The redshirt junior now will look at entering the NFL draft or the transfer portal.

"To my teammates, everyone past, present, it's been incredible," Hartman said. "To all my teammates, I love you guys."

Hartman threw his 108th career touchdown pass to set an ACC record on a five-yard strike to Taylor Morin that made it 7-0 in the first quarter. He had been tied with Clemson's Tajh Boyd (2010-13) and ended up with 110 overall.

Hartman came up 33 yards short of joining North Carolina State's Philip Rivers (13,484 from 2000 to 2003) as the only quarterbacks in ACC history to reach 13,000 passing yards.

A.T. Perry had 11 receptions for 116 yards for Wake Forest (8-5)

Brady Cook was 29-for-48 passing for 215 yards for Missouri (6-7). He also rushed for 38 yards on 14 tries.

Missouri took its first lead at 17-14 when Cody Schrader scored from four yards out with 5:45 remaining in the third quarter.

Wake Forest went ahead 20-17 just 1:16 later when Hartman hooked up with Jahmal Banks for a 48-yard touchdown. Matthew Dennis missed the extra point, which ended the Demon Deacons' streak of 269 consecutive successful tries, dating back to 2017.

Illinois' Brown enters draft

Illinois running back Chase Brown will skip the ReliaQuest Bowl and enter the NFL draft.

Brown had 1,643 yards rushing this season, tops among the Power Five conferences. He announced his plans on Twitter.

"Through the highs and lows, my time at Illinois has been the best experience of my life," said Brown, a junior who started his college career at Western Michigan in 2018. "I earned a degree, advanced as an athlete, and formed lifelong connections."

Brown will finish his career as the second-leading rusher at Illinois with 3,558 yards, trailing Robert Holcombe (4,105 yards from 1994 to 1997). His rushing yardage this season ranks him third all-time at the school behind Mikel Leshoure (1,697 in 2010) and Rashard Mendenhall (1,681 yards in 2007). He set a school single-season record this year with 11 100-yard games.

ROGELIO V. SOLIS/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Clayton Tune (3) threw for three touchdowns, including the winning score with 20 seconds remaining.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL ROUNDUP

Second-ranked Cardinal stops rival Golden Bears

STANFORD 90, CALIFORNIA 69

Associated Press

Haley Jones and Hannah Jump, Stanford's two stars, share the same initials. Together they dismantled rival California on Friday.

"In the first half we did a good job on Hannah, but Haley was killing us," Golden Bears Coach Charmin Smith said.

Jump more than did her part after intermission.

Jones hit her initial six shots and scored 21 points on 10-for-14 shooting to go with 10 rebounds and four assists, leading No. 2 Stanford to a 90-69 victory Friday in the Pac-12 opener for both schools in Stanford, Calif.

Jump knocked down five three-pointers on the way to 17 points to emphatically bounce back after missing all five of her tries from long range in Tuesday's 72-59 home win against No. 21 Creighton. It was her first game without making a three since an NCAA tournament Elite Eight game vs. Texas in March.

"It's really great for our team to be able to have different people who can step up on any given day who are ready when their number's called," Stanford senior Francesca Belibi said. "That makes it hard for other teams to guard us because you never really know who's going to be the one to step up on any given day. We're always excited for each other."

Cameron Brink had 11 points, five rebounds and two blocks and Kiki Iriafen added nine points for Stanford (13-1). Freshman 6-foot-7 center Lauren Betts also scored nine points as the Cardinal got 26 points from the bench in its eighth straight victory since a 76-71 overtime setback vs. top-ranked South Carolina on Nov. 20.

"Going down the stretch we're going to need everyone, so it's trying to balance minutes and get people some playing time," Hall of Fame coach Tara VanDerveer said.

Jayda Curry scored 20 points for the Golden Bears (9-3).

Indiana men surge to victory

Tamar Bates scored 19 points, Jalen Hood-Schifino added 18, and the No. 18 Indiana men fended off Kennesaw State, 69-55, in Bloomington, Ind.

The game was tied at 43 with 9:49 remaining when Miller Kopp hit a three-pointer and Bates made another to push the Hoosiers ahead to stay.

Hood-Schifino scored seven points down the stretch as Indiana (10-3) pulled away.

Bates and Hood-Schifino combined to make 9 of 12 shots in the second half.

Kasen Jennings led the Owls (8-5) with 11 points.

Hoosiers leading scorer Trayce Jackson-Davis, who averages 16.4 points and 8.3 rebounds, missed his second consecutive game and third of the season for what the school said were precautionary reasons. He has been dealing with a lower back injury since November. Point guard Xavier Johnson is out indefinitely after having foot surgery.

The Owls hit six three-pointers and led by eight points in the first half before the Hoosiers rallied to tie the game at 27 at the break.

Kennesaw State finished with 10 three-pointers.

• **GEORGE MASON 91, COPPIN STATE 53:** Victor Bailey Jr. scored 17 points to help the Patriots rout the Eagles.

Bailey shot 5 for 9 (4 for 7 from three-point range) from the field and 3 for 3 from the free throw line for the Patriots (8-5) at EagleBank Arena.

De'Von Cooper and Devin Dinkins scored 15 points each for George Mason, and Ginika Ojiako added 13.

Sam Sessoms led the way for the Eagles (5-10) with 17 points, six rebounds and three steals.

Fiancee: No Beard strangling

The woman who called police to report a family violence assault by Texas men's coach Chris Beard said Friday that Beard did not strangle her and she never wanted him arrested or prosecuted.

Beard was suspended indefinitely without pay after his Dec. 12 arrest on a felony charge of strangling his fiancee, Randi Trew, who lives with him.

In a statement sent to the Associated Press by her attorney, Randy Leavitt, Trew said that she is "deeply saddened" by the incident and that Beard was acting in self-defense from her.

"Chris and I are deeply saddened that we have brought negative attention upon our family, friends, and the University of Texas, among others. As Chris' fiancee and biggest supporter, I apologize for the role I played in this unfortunate event. I realize that my frustration, when breaking his glasses, initiated a physical struggle between Chris and myself," Trew said in the statement.

"Chris did not strangle me, and I told that to law enforcement that evening. Chris has stated that he was acting in self-defense, and I do not refute that. I do not believe Chris was trying to intentionally harm me in any way. It was never my intent to have him arrested or prosecuted. We appreciate everyone's support and prayers during this difficult time," she said.

Leavitt confirmed that Trew, whose name was redacted by police from charging documents, agreed to be named publicly. He declined to comment further.

In a statement, the university said: "We are reviewing the statement from Randi Trew. This matter is the subject of an internal investigation, and the university does not comment on pending investigations."

According to the police affidavit in support of Beard's arrest, Trew initially placed an emergency call from the house and told responding officers that Beard had strangled her from behind to the point where she couldn't breathe for several seconds and bit her when an argument turned physical. The affidavit listed several visible signs of an altercation, including bite marks on her arm and abrasions on her face and leg.

• **MARQUETTE:** Zach Wrightsil will have season-ending surgery, he said on social media.

Wrightsil, the 2021-22 NAIA player of the year, transferred to Marquette after leading Loyola New Orleans to the association's championship last season. He had arthroscopic knee surgery in June and appeared in three games for the Golden Eagles before the knee issue kept him from playing again.

Wrightsil totaled four points in the 26 minutes he played for Marquette. The 6-foot-7 forward averaged 18.7 points, 8.8 rebounds and 3.6 assists for the Wolf Pack last season.

GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Stanford's Hannah Jump (33) was 5 for 9 from three-point range in scoring 17 points vs. California.

HOCKEY

NHL ROUNDUP

Carolina holds on, sets franchise record for consecutive games with a point

HURRICANES 6, FLYERS 5

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jesper Fast scored twice in the first period, and the Carolina Hurricanes set a franchise record with at least a point in their 14th straight game, beating the Philadelphia Flyers, 6-5, on Friday night in Raleigh, N.C.

Stefan Noesen, Andrei Svechnikov, Jordan Martinook and Jesperi Kotkaniemi also scored as the Hurricanes won their eighth straight. Jordan Staal had three assists, and Martinook, Martin Necas and Brett Pesce each had two. Goalie Antti Raanta made 27 saves for the Hurricanes.

Travis Sanheim, Tony DeAngelo, Nick Seeler, Scott Laughton and Travis Konecny scored for the Flyers, who tried to rally with three goals in the third period but lost for the third time in four games.

The loss spoiled the NHL debut of Flyers goalie Samuel Ersson, who was pulled midway through the second period and returned with about two minutes left in the frame after Carter Hart exited because of an injury. He finished with 25 saves. Hart had six.

Laughton and Konecny scored shorthanded as the Flyers cut a four-goal deficit to one with three unanswered goals in the third period.

Fast scored 3:57 into the game on the first shot on Ersson, who was called up from the American Hockey League earlier in the week when Felix Sandstrom didn't make a two-game trip because of illness.

Sanheim's fourth goal of the season drew the Flyers even at 11:03 of the opening period.

Noesen scored on a redirection on a power play at 14:32 to put Carolina back on top with his 15th goal. Fast's second goal of the game came with 55 seconds left in the period.

KARL B DEBLAKER/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Martin Necas had two assists for Carolina, which raced to a 3-1 lead in the first period en route to earning a point in its 14th straight game.

DeAngelo scored 61 seconds into the second period, but Svechnikov's team-leading 18th goal restored the Hurricanes' two-goal margin.

Ersson, a 23-year-old Swede, allowed five goals on 22 shots before Hart, who leads the NHL in shots faced this season, replaced him. When teammate Rasmus Ristolainen pushed Carolina's Seth Jarvis into the crease on a sequence that resulted in the Hurricanes' sixth goal, Hart exited with an injury with 2:08 left in the second.

• **BRUINS 4, DEVILS 3:** In Newark, David Pastrnak scored two of Boston's four second-period goals and linemates David Krejci and Pavel Zacha each had two assists in a victory over New Jersey.

Patrice Bergeron and Jake DeBrusk also scored for the Bruins, and Linus Ullmark made 36 saves in his NHL-best 19th win. Boston has won four in a row.

The victory completed the sweep of a difficult back-to-back with Winnipeg and New Jersey and pushed the Bruins' NHL-best record to 27-4-2 heading into the holiday break.

Jack Hughes, Tomas Tatar and Yegor Sharangovich scored for New Jersey. Mackenzie Blackwood made 14 saves before getting pulled after two periods. The Devils lost for the seventh time in eight games (1-6-1) and dropped to 3-6-2 in December.

Boston improved to 9-4-1 when it allows the first goal, the best mark in the NHL, and won despite giving up the opening score for the second consecutive night. The Bruins struck for three goals in the first 10 minutes of the second, with Pastrnak scoring his 23rd and 24th goals of the season.

• **ISLANDERS 5, PANTHERS 1:** Aatu Raty scored in his NHL debut, Anthony Beauvillier added two goals and Ilya Sorokin made 22 saves, leading New York past Florida in Elmont, N.Y.

Ryan Pulock and Zach Parise also scored for the Islanders.

Matthew Tkachuk scored his 15th goal of the season for Florida, which won its two previous meetings against the Islanders this season. Sergei Bobrovsky made 38 saves.

Raty, a 20-year-old Finnish rookie recalled from Bridgeport of the AHL earlier in the day, beat Bobrovsky at 7:10 of the third. A second-round pick by the Islanders in 2021, Raty replaced injured center Casey Cizikas in the lineup. Anders Lee and Beauvillier assisted on Raty's goal.

Parise's 11th goal of the season was the 419th of his career.

• **AVALANCHE 3, PREDATORS 2 (OT):** Samuel Girard scored 4:17 into overtime to lift Colorado past host Nashville.

Mikko Rantanen scored just past midway of the second period, and J.T. Compher scored with 4:55 to play to tie the game after Colorado fell behind 2-0.

• **STARS 4, CANADIENS 2:** Roope Hintz scored twice and Wyatt Johnson scored a power-play goal with five minutes to play as host Dallas rallied from a two-goal deficit to beat Montreal.

Joel Kiviranta scored an empty-net goal with 17 seconds to play to complete the Stars' victory.

Jake Evans scored a power-play goal at 4:04 of the first period to put Montreal ahead, and Michael Pezzetta scored 2:24 into the second period for the Canadiens. But Hintz scored a power-play goal at 15:19 of the second period to start Dallas's comeback. Hintz scored another power-play goal 2:27 into the third period to tie the game.

Jake Oettinger stopped 22 of 24 shots for Dallas.

• **BLACKHAWKS 5, BLUE JACKETS 2:** Jonathan Toews and Patrick Kane each had a goal and two assists, and host Chicago ended an eight-game skid with a win over Columbus.

Alex Stalock made 27 saves in his return from a concussion to help last-place Chicago snap an 11-game home losing streak (0-10-1) and earn just its second win in 18 games overall (2-15-1).

Marcus Bjork had a goal and an assist as the Blue Jackets lost their sixth straight. Columbus has scored only nine times during its slide.

• **CANUCKS 5, OILERS 2:** Bo Horvat had two goals and two assists and J.T. Miller scored twice to lead Vancouver over host Edmonton.

Connor McDavid and Derek Ryant scored for Edmonton.

Ovechkin's two goals move him past Howe

CAPITALS FROM D1

and had a long-shot attempt at an empty net that hit the post and clanked out. Moments later, with the Capitals in the offensive zone and the open net in front of him, Ovechkin passed it to Evgeny Kuznetsov, who quickly decided he didn't want to shoot and instead gave it back to Ovechkin.

Laviolette said afterward that he and Ovechkin had a conversation before the game and decided he would give Ovechkin normal minutes if any empty-net opportunity arose.

"It's the kind of situation where if you have a chance to take it, you take it," Ovechkin said. "I give it to Kuzy, and he's like, 'I don't want to take it.' But after that, it's special."

Kuznetsov said: "I'll feel probably bad if I score over there and half of the world probably will be so mad at me. You know, I do have a lot of haters . . . the reputation, whatever."

Howe died in 2016 at 88. Ovechkin met him at the 2009 All-Star Game in Montreal. A signed photo of Ovechkin and Howe together in the dressing room remains Ovechkin's "top thing" in his collection, he said.

"Obviously, Kobe Bryant, Michael Jordan, Wayne Gretzky's stick, Mario Lemieux's stick — [the photo is] probably the top one," he said.

On hand for Nos. 801 and 802 were Ovechkin's wife, Nastya, and two sons, Sergei, 4, and Ilya, 2. All have been in attendance for Washington's past three home games, when Ovechkin had his chances to catch Howe but couldn't light the lamp.

On Friday, with all eyes on him, Ovechkin made sure he put on a show. Sergei and Ilya both went to the Capitals' locker room after the game and posed for photos while they held up their father's historic No. 801 and No. 802 pucks.

"You never thought it's going to happen when you came into the league, you're going to beat any Gordie Howe record or Wayne Gretzky record or any record," Ovechkin said. "You felt like, okay, maybe you're going to play in the NHL, you're going to be good and you're going to try to do your best — but the whole situation happening right now, it's a miracle. You know, it's pretty special."

JONATHAN NEWTON/THE WASHINGTON POST

Alex Ovechkin's first goal of the night against the Jets came late in the opening period. He beat David Rittich, the 166th goaltender Ovechkin has scored on in his career.

Ovechkin's first goal Friday tied Howe's record 18:22 into the first period to give Washington a 1-0 lead. His wrist shot from the circle got past Rittich, the 166th goaltender Ovechkin has scored on in his remarkable career.

Then the chase was on for a second.

"When you see what Alex does on a daily basis, I think anything is possible," Laviolette said. "The way he plays. The way he scores. The way he shoots the puck. His love for the game. His passion and purpose for the game. Anything is possible."

Ovechkin has nine goals in his past nine games. For the season, he has 22 goals in 36 games — a 50-goal pace. The Capitals struggled to start the year, but the captain has helped his injury-ravaged team stay afloat.

"He's on pace again for another great year," Laviolette said. "He's in great shape. He's obviously got tremendous ability and talent when it comes to doing what he does. He loves the game. He's got a passion and a purpose when he takes the ice. I think all of those things combined and the fact that he's been able to play in a lot of games, all of that adds up to having the ability to play consistent."

Teammates have long praised Ovechkin's abilities, but as he ticked off one legend after another during his march up the goals list, the appreciation reached at a new level.

"Seven or eight years ago, no one even talked about it, even though he was clearly on the same trajectory he is now," defenseman John Carlson said this month. "It went from 'Maybe, kind of' to 'Holy crap, this is coming around pretty soon.' . . . You get to play with a guy for 13 years that has beaten these guys in the history books, and it is pretty cool stuff."

With No. 802 behind him, Ovechkin can take a moment to breathe. But the expectations don't end at No. 2.

"Everyone is waiting for the Gretzky record, and it is not going to be easy," Orlov said. "Everyone knows it, and he does, too. It's a lot of work and sometimes luck, too. There is a long way to go."

Added forward Anthony Mantha: "I think once he's going to be number one, he can have a sense of relief. Until then, he's on the hunt — and that's what we love about him."

Capitals 4, Jets 1

WINNIPEG	0	0	1	1
WASHINGTON	1	1	2	4

FIRST PERIOD

Scoring: 1, Washington, Ovechkin 21 (Sheary, Strome), 18:22.

SECOND PERIOD

Scoring: 2, Washington, Milano 5 (Sheary, Ovechkin), 12:46.

THIRD PERIOD

Scoring: 3, Washington, Dowd 8 (Hathaway, Gustafsson), 3:49. 4, Winnipeg, Stenlund 2 (Jonsson-Fjallby, Kuhlman), 9:59. 5, Washington, Ovechkin 22 (Kuznetsov), 19:00 (en).

SHOTS ON GOAL

WINNIPEG	7	3	16	26
WASHINGTON	10	10	7	27

Power-play opportunities: Winnipeg 0 of 2; Washington 0 of 4. **Goalies:** Winnipeg, Rittich 5-4-0 (26 shots-23 saves). Washington, Lindgren 10-4-2 (26-25). **A:** 18,573 (18,277). **T:** 2:34.

CAPITALS' NEXT THREE

at New York Rangers

Tuesday	7	NBCSW Plus

vs. Ottawa Senators

Thursday	7	NBCSW

vs. Montreal Canadiens

Dec. 31	4	NBCSW

Radio: WJFK (106.7 FM), WTEM (980 AM), WFED (1500 AM)

SCOREBOARD

PRO FOOTBALL

NFL

WEEK 16
THURSDAY'S RESULT
Jacksonville 19, at N.Y. Jets 3

SATURDAY'S GAMES
Washington at San Francisco (-7), 4:05
Atlanta at Baltimore (-6½), 1
Buffalo (-8½) at Chicago, 1
Cincinnati (-3) at New England, 1
Detroit (-2½) at Carolina, 1
Houston at Tennessee (-3½), 1
N.Y. Giants at Minnesota (-3½), 1
New Orleans at Cleveland (-2½), 1
Seattle at Kansas City (-10), 1
Philadelphia at Dallas (-4), 4:25
Las Vegas at Pittsburgh (-2½), 8:15

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Green Bay at Miami (-3½), 1
Denver (-3) at L.A. Rams, 4:30
Tampa Bay (-8) at Arizona, 8:20

MONDAY'S GAME
L.A. Chargers (-4½) at Indianapolis, 8:15

WEEK 17
THURSDAY'S GAME
Dallas at Tennessee, 8:15

SUNDAY, JAN. 1
Cleveland at Washington, 1
Pittsburgh at Baltimore, 1
Arizona at Atlanta, 1
Carolina at Tampa Bay, 1
Chicago at Detroit, 1
Denver at Kansas City, 1
Indianapolis at N.Y. Giants, 1
Jacksonville at Houston, 1
Miami at New England, 1
New Orleans at Philadelphia, 1
N.Y. Jets at Seattle, 4:05
San Francisco at Las Vegas, 4:05
Minnesota at Green Bay, 4:25
L.A. Rams at L.A. Chargers, 8:20

MONDAY, JAN. 2
Buffalo at Cincinnati, 8:30

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NCAA men

EAST
Princeton 88, Kean 70
Rutgers 85, Bucknell 50

SOUTH
George Mason 91, Coppin State 53

MIDWEST
Indiana 69, Kennesaw State 55

WEST
Iona 83, Seattle 72
SMU 77, Utah State 74

George Mason 91, Coppin State 53

Coppin State (5-10)
Titus 2-4 0-0 5, Hood 4-11 2-2 11, Rojas 0-1 0-0 0, Sessoms 6-13 5-5 17, Tarke 4-12 0-6 9, Spurlock 0-2 0-0 0, Blue 0-4 0-0 0, Steers 1-8 7-9 9, Tekavcic 0-0 2-4 2, Sutton 0-2 0-0 0. **Totals 17-57 16-26 53.**
George Mason (8-5)
J.Oduro 4-7 4-6 12, Bailey 5-9 3-3 17, Cooper 4-8 4-4 15, Gaines 2-4 0-0 6, Polite 1-6 0-0 2, Dinkins 4-8 3-4 15, Singleton 1-2 0-0 2, Fernandez 2-6 0-0 5, Jones 0-0 0-0 0, Ojiako 6-9 1-1 13, Nnaji 0-1 0-0 0, Henry 1-1 0-0 2, Johnson 1-1 0-0 2, P.Oduro 0-0 0-0 0, Tucker 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 31-62 15-18 91.**
Halftime: George Mason 53-20. **Three-point goals:** Coppin State 3-20 (Titus 1-2, Tarke 1-3, Hood 1-5, Rojas 0-1, Spurlock 0-1, Blue 0-2, Sutton 0-2, Sessoms 0-4), George Mason 14-32 (Bailey 4-7, Dinkins 4-8, Cooper 3-7, Gaines 2-4, Fernandez 1-4, Polite 0-2). **Fouled out:** Titus. **Rebounds:** Coppin State 25 (Sessoms, Tarke 6), George Mason 47 (J.Oduro 12). **Assists:** Coppin State 5 (Sessoms 3), George Mason 22 (J.Oduro 5). **Total fouls:** Coppin State 19, George Mason 19. **A:** 3,011 (10,000).

No. 18 Indiana 69, Kennesaw State 55

Kennesaw State (8-5)
Robinson 3-9 3-5 9, Burden 2-9 5-6 9, Jennings 4-7 0-2 11, Stroud 2-6 0-0 5, Youngblood 2-11 0-0 6, Ademokoya 1-3 1-2 4, Rodgers 1-4 0-0 3, Cottle 3-4 0-0 8, LaRue 0-2 0-0 0. **Totals 18-55 9-15 55.**
Indiana (10-3)
Kopp 2-6 2-2 7, Reneau 2-5 1-2 5, Thompson 2-7 0-4 4, Galloway 3-4 1-2 9, Hood-Schifino 6-8 5-6 18, Bates 7-12 2-2 19, Geronimo 1-3 5-8 7, Gunn 0-1 0-0 0, Duncomb 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals 23-46 16-26 69.**
Halftime: 27-27. **Three-point goals:** Kennesaw State 10-25 (Jennings 3-4, Cottle 2-2, Youngblood 2-5, Rodgers 1-2, Ademokoya 1-3, Stroud 1-5, LaRue 0-1, Robinson 0-1, Burden 0-2), Indiana 7-18 (Bates 3-7, Galloway 2-2, Hood-Schifino 1-1, Kopp 1-4, Geronimo 0-1, Gunn 0-1, Thompson 0-2). **Fouled out:** Jennings. **Rebounds:** Kennesaw State 26 (Youngblood 6), Indiana 36 (Thompson 14). **Assists:** Kennesaw State 13 (Youngblood 3), Indiana 12 (Thompson, Hood-Schifino 3). **Total fouls:** Kennesaw State 22, Indiana 15. **A:** 12,978 (17,222).

SMU 77, Utah State 74

SMU (5-7)
Odigie 4-7 3-3 12, Williamson 7-10 1-1 15, Nutall 6-10 0-0 13, Phelps 8-21 3-4 19, Smith 0-0 2-2 2, Todorovic 2-5 5-5 10, Ambrose-Hylton 1-4 0-0 2, Koulibaly 0-1 0-0 0, Lanier 1-2 1-2 4. **Totals 29-60 15-17 77.**
Utah State (10-2)
Funk 3-12 1-1 7, Dorius 3-4 0-0 6, Ashworth 4-13 4-5 15, Bairstow 7-14 0-1 18, Shulga 5-11 5-5 18, Akin 1-4 6-6 8, Hamoda 1-5 0-0 2, Jones 0-1 0-0 0. **Totals 24-64 16-18 74.**
Halftime: SMU 40-32. **Three-point goals:** SMU 4-12 (Odigie 1-1, Lanier 1-2, Nutall 1-2, Todorovic 1-4, Koulibaly 0-1, Phelps 0-2), Utah State 10-36 (Bairstow 4-6, Shulga 3-6, Ashworth 3-12, Jones 0-1, Hamoda 0-4, Funk 0-7). **Rebounds:** SMU 26 (Phelps 8), Utah State 37 (Dorius 9). **Assists:** SMU 16 (Williamson, Phelps 4), Utah State 15 (Shulga 4). **Total fouls:** SMU 20, Utah State 17. **A:** 4,070 (10,300).

Rutgers 85, Bucknell 50

Bucknell (7-6)
Motta 3-9 2-2 10, Screen 3-10 3-5 9, Timmerman 2-6 0-0 4, Edmonds 0-5 0-0 0, Rice 5-11 1-1 13, Forrest 1-5 0-0 3, van der Heijden 2-7 0-0 5, Fulton 0-0 1-2 1, Bijiek 0-3 0-0 0, Bascoe 1-1 0-0 3, Adoh 0-0 0-0 0, Delev 0-0 0-0 0, Williamson 1-1 0-0 2. **Totals 18-58 7-10 50.**
Rutgers (8-4)
Mag 2-7 2-2 6, Omoruyi 7-10 3-4 17, McConnell 7-11 0-0 14, Mulcahy 2-8 2-2 6, Spencer 3-8 2-2 9, Simpson 4-9 2-2 10, Hyatt 4-9 2-2 11, Woolfolk 2-3 1-2 5, Miller 0-0 0-0 0, Reiber 1-1 0-0 2, Palmquist 1-1 0-0 3, Terry 0-0 0-0 0, Stephens 0-0 2-2 2. **Totals 33-67 16-18 85.**
Halftime: Rutgers 44-26. **Three-point goals:** Bucknell 7-25 (Motta 2-4, Rice 2-7, Bascoe 1-1, Forrest 1-4, van der Heijden 1-4, Bijiek 0-1, Edmonds 0-4), Rutgers 3-15 (Palmquist 1-1, Hyatt 1-2, Spencer 1-5, Mulcahy 0-1, Omoruyi 0-1, Mag 0-2, Simpson 0-3). **Rebounds:** Bucknell 30 (Screen 8), Rutgers 43 (Omoruyi 14). **Assists:** Bucknell 10 (Screen 3), Rutgers 20 (McConnell 7). **Total fouls:** Bucknell 13, Rutgers 15. **A:** 6,000 (8,000).

NCAA women

EAST
Towson 66, Massachusetts Lowell 40

SOUTH
Jackson State 60, Southeastern Louisiana 51
Norfolk State 42, UNC Wilmington 38

WEST
Stanford 90, California 69

No. 2 Stanford 90, California 69

CALIFORNIA	15	14	19	21	— 69
STANFORD	28	19	21	22	— 90

California (9-3)
Lutje Schipholt 6-10 1-3 13, Tuitele 1-2 0-0 2, Curry 6-18 5-5 20, Martin 2-9 0-0 5, McIntosh 6-11 3-3 17, Bush 0-2 3-4 3, Onyiah 3-4 0-0 6, Bonner 0-0 0-0 0, Mastrov 1-5 0-0 3, Ortiz 0-3 0-0 0, **Totals 25-64 12-15 69**
Stanford (13-1)
Brink 5-7 0-0 11, Iriafen 3-5 3-4 9, Jones 10-14 1-1 21, Jump 5-11 2-2 17, Lepolo 2-2 2-2 6, Belibi 3-5 0-0 6, Prechtel 1-3 0-0 2, Betts 4-7 1-4 9, Emma-Nnopu 0-1 0-0 0, Green 0-0 0-0 0, Nivar 0-3 0-0 0, Papadaki 0-1 0-0 0, Bosgana 4-6 0-0 9, Demetre 0-4 0-0 0, Harriel 0-1 0-0 0, **Totals 37-70 9-13 90**
Three-point goals: California 7-16 (Tuitele 0-1, Curry 3-5, Martin 1-2, McIntosh 2-3, Mastrov 1-4, Ortiz 0-1), Stanford 7-24 (Brink 1-3, Jones 0-2, Jump 5-9, Prechtel 0-2, Nivar 0-1, Papadaki 0-1, Bosgana 1-2, Demetre 0-3, Harriel 0-1). **Assists:** California 13 (Lutje Schipholt 4), Stanford 22 (Jones 4). **Fouled out:** None. **Rebounds:** California 25 (Lutje Schipholt 4, McIntosh 4), Stanford 48 (Jones 10). **Total fouls:** California 9, Stanford 15. Technical Fouls_None. **A:** 3,970.

HIGH SCHOOLS

BOYS' BASKETBALL
PRIVATE
St. Andrews 74, Lanthan Christian 46
St. John's 65, Goretti 59

GIRLS' BASKETBALL
PRIVATE
Bishop Ireton 64, South Lakes 34
Maret 50, Elizabeth Seton 38
Mount Zion 65, Pallotti 61

MARYLAND
St. Mary's 62, South River 50

PRO BASKETBALL

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE

ATLANTIC	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	10	.697	—
Brooklyn	21	12	.636	2
Philadelphia	19	12	.613	3
New York	18	15	.545	5
Toronto	15	18	.455	8

SOUTHEAST	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	17	16	.515	—
Miami	16	17	.485	1
Orlando	13	21	.382	4½
x-Washington	12	21	.364	5
x-Charlotte	8	24	.250	8½

CENTRAL	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	22	10	.688	—
Cleveland	22	12	.647	1
Indiana	17	16	.515	5½
Chicago	14	18	.438	8
Detroit	8	27	.229	15½

WESTERN CONFERENCE

SOUTHWEST	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Memphis	19	11	.633	—
New Orleans	20	12	.625	—
Dallas	17	16	.515	3½
San Antonio	10	22	.313	10
Houston	9	23	.281	11

NORTHWEST	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	20	11	.645	—
Utah	19	16	.543	3
Portland	17	16	.515	4
Minnesota	16	17	.485	5
Oklahoma City	14	19	.424	7

PACIFIC	W	L	Pct	GB
x-Phoenix	19	13	.594	—
x-Sacramento	17	13	.567	1
L.A. Clippers	19	15	.559	1
Golden State	15	18	.455	4½
x-L.A. Lakers	13	18	.419	5½

x-Late game

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
at Utah 120, Washington 112
at New Orleans 126, San Antonio 117

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
Washington at Sacramento, late
at Orlando 133, San Antonio 113
at Philadelphia 119, L.A. Clippers 114
at Boston 121, Minnesota 109
at Brooklyn 118, Milwaukee 100
at Atlanta 130, Detroit 105
Chicago 118, at New York 117
Toronto 118, at Cleveland 107
Dallas 112, at Houston 106
Indiana 111, at Miami 108
New Orleans 128, at Oklahoma City 125 (OT)
at Denver 120, Portland 107
Memphis at Phoenix, late
Charlotte at L.A. Lakers, late

SATURDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled.

SUNDAY'S GAMES
Philadelphia at New York, 12
L.A. Lakers at Dallas, 2:30
Milwaukee at Boston, 5
Memphis at Golden State, 8
Phoenix at Denver, 10:30

MONDAY'S GAMES
Brooklyn at Cleveland, 7
L.A. Clippers at Detroit, 7
Minnesota at Miami, 7:30
Houston at Chicago, 8
Indiana at New Orleans, 8
Utah at San Antonio, 8
Charlotte at Portland, 10

Magic 133, Spurs 113

SAN ANTONIO	28	33	28	24	— 113
ORLANDO	34	27	33	39	— 133

SAN ANTONIO: K.Johnson 5-14 5-9 17, Sochan 6-14 1-1 13, Poeltl 3-4 0-0 6, Jones 7-10 0-0 16, Vassell 6-15 0-0 14, Branham 4-5 0-0 9, McDermott 4-12 2-2 13, Roby 0-1 0-0 0, Bassey 0-0 2-2 2, Collins 4-7 0-1 9, S.Johnson 3-5 0-0 7, Richardson 2-10 3-3 7. **Totals** 44-97 13-18 113.

ORLANDO: Banchero 7-15 1-1 18, Bol 6-8 0-0 14, M.Wagner 6-11 4-4 17, F.Wagner 7-15 5-5 21, Fultz 3-5 2-4 8, Carter Jr. 4-9 0-1 8, Ross 1-1 0-0 2, Bamba 3-5 0-0 9, Anthony 8-10 3-3 23, G.Harris 4-5 0-0 9, Houstan 1-2 0-0 3, Hampton 0-1 1-2 1. **Totals** 50-87 16-20 133.

Three-point Goals: San Antonio 12-38 (McDermott 3-9, Jones 2-2, K.Johnson 2-7, Vassell 2-7, Branham 1-1, Collins 1-1, S.Johnson 1-3, Roby 0-1, Sochan 0-3, Richardson 0-4), Orlando 17-32 (Anthony 4-4, Bamba 3-4, Banchero 3-6, Bol 2-3, F.Wagner 2-3, G.Harris 1-2, Houstan 1-2, M.Wagner 1-3, Carter Jr. 0-5). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** San Antonio 38 (Sochan 9), Orlando 44 (Anthony 10). **Assists:** San Antonio 28 (Jones 8), Orlando 30 (Anthony 9). **Total Fouls:** San Antonio 18, Orlando 15. **A:** 18,425 (18,846)

76ers 119, Clippers 114

L.A. CLIPPERS	33	30	22	29	— 114
PHILADELPHIA	24	27	34	34	— 119

L.A. CLIPPERS: Leonard 12-19 3-4 28, Morris Sr. 3-9 2-2 11, Zubac 3-3 1-1 7, George 7-18 5-5 22, Jackson 2-6 0-0 4, Batum 3-5 2-2 10, Mann 1-2 0-0 3, Kennard 2-6 2-2 8, Powell 8-13 3-7 21. **Totals** 41-81 18-23 114.

PHILADELPHIA: Harris 6-12 0-0 14, Tucker 0-0 0-0 0, Embiid 18-30 7-7 44, Harden 6-17 5-6 20, Melton 5-10 0-0 13, Niang 4-6 0-0 11, Reed 1-1 0-0 2, Harrell 0-1 0-0 0, Korkmaz 0-0 0-0 0, Milton 6-10 1-2 13, Thybulle 0-0 0-0 0, House Jr. 1-1 0-0 2. **Totals** 47-88 13-15 119.

Three-point Goals: L.A. Clippers 14-38 (Morris Sr. 3-7, George 3-10, Batum 2-4, Kennard 2-4, Powell 2-5, Leonard 1-2, Mann 1-2, Jackson 0-4), Philadelphia 12-29 (Niang 3-5, Harden 3-6, Melton 3-7, Harris 2-6, Embiid 1-4, Milton 0-1). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** L.A. Clippers 33 (Zubac 12), Philadelphia 39 (Harden 11). **Assists:** L.A. Clippers 25 (Leonard 5), Philadelphia 31 (Harden 21). **Total Fouls:** L.A. Clippers 16, Philadelphia 20. **A:** 19,996 (20,478)

Raptors 118, Cavaliers 107

TORONTO	39	30	29	20	— 118
CLEVELAND	31	22	25	29	— 107

TORONTO: Anunoby 10-17 0-0 26, Siakam 9-22 6-8 26, Hernangomez 1-3 0-0 3, Barnes 10-16 5-5 25, VanVleet 5-12 3-3 18, Young 1-1 1-2 3, Trent Jr. 3-6 0-0 8, Flynn 3-7 0-0 9. **Totals** 42-84 15-18 118.

CLEVELAND: E.Mobley 5-7 0-0 10, Okoro 4-6 5-6 15, Allen 5-6 1-2 11, Garland 6-13 3-3 17, Mitchell 4-16 1-4 12, Osman 5-9 3-5 13, Stevens 3-6 0-3 6, Love 3-5 4-5 13, Lopez 1-2 0-0 2, LeVert 3-4 1-2 8, Neto 0-2 0-0 0. **Totals** 39-76 18-30 107.

Three-point Goals: Toronto 19-37 (Anunoby 6-9, VanVleet 5-10, Flynn 3-6, Trent Jr. 2-4, Siakam 2-5, Hernangomez 1-2, Barnes 0-1), Cleveland 11-33 (Love 3-4, Mitchell 3-12, Okoro 2-4, Garland 2-5, LeVert 1-2, Neto 0-1, Stevens 0-2, Osman 0-3). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Toronto 45 (Barnes 10), Cleveland 35 (E.Mobley 8). **Assists:** Toronto 25 (Siakam 9), Cleveland 27 (Garland 8). **Total Fouls:** Toronto 20, Cleveland 17. **A:** 19,432 (19,432)

Hawks 130, Pistons 105

DETROIT	34	29	18	24	— 105
ATLANTA	32	28	35	35	— 130

DETROIT: Boj.Bogdanovic 8-20 5-5 23, Stewart 2-7 1-2 7, Duren 5-7 3-4 13, Hayes 7-10 2-2 17, Ivey 5-14 4-5 15, Bagley III 2-5 0-0 4, Bey 1-5 4-4 6, Knox II 2-9 0-0 5, Burks 2-6 1-3 7, Diallo 2-4 2-4 6, Joseph 1-3 0-0 2. **Totals** 37-90 22-29 105.

ATLANTA: Collins 4-10 0-0 8, Hunter 4-10 0-0 9, Capela 4-5 2-2 10, Murray 10-18 3-4 26, Young 9-15 5-8 26, Griffin 3-6 2-2 8, Johnson 1-2 0-0 2, Kaminsky 0-0 0-0 0, Okongwu 4-5 4-4 12, J.Holiday 1-1 0-0 3, A.Holiday 1-1 0-0 3, Bog.Bogdanovic 7-18 2-2 19, Krejci 0-0 0-0 0, Martin 1-1 2-2 4. **Totals** 49-92 20-24 130.

Three-point Goals: Detroit 9-33 (Burks 2-4, Stewart 2-4, Boj.Bogdanovic 2-7, Hayes 1-3, Ivey 1-3, Knox II 1-6, Bagley III 0-2, Bey 0-2, Joseph 0-2), Atlanta 12-34 (Young 3-7, Murray 3-8, Bog.Bogdanovic 3-11, A.Holiday 1-1, J.Holiday 1-1, Hunter 1-3, Collins 0-1, Griffin 0-1, Johnson 0-1). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Detroit 43 (Duren 8), Atlanta 48 (Collins 12). **Assists:** Detroit 17 (Hayes 5), Atlanta 30 (Young 13). **Total Fouls:** Detroit 19, Atlanta 20. **A:** 17,028 (18,118)

Nets 118, Bucks 100

MILWAUKEE	29	18	28	25	— 100
BROOKLYN	36	24	25	33	— 118

MILWAUKEE: Allen 1-3 0-0 3, G.Antetokounmpo 9-13 8-11 26, Lopez 10-16 1-2 23, Carter 2-10 1-1 5, Holiday 5-14 6-7 18, Beauchamp 2-6 0-0 6, Nwora 1-1 1-1 3, Portis 5-11 0-0 10, T.Antetokounmpo 0-0 0-0 0, Ingles 0-4 0-0 0, Connaughton 2-6 0-0 6. **Totals** 37-84 17-22 100.

BROOKLYN: Durant 9-17 4-4 24, O'Neale 6-9 0-0 17, Claxton 9-10 1-2 19, Irving 6-18 3-3 18, Simmons 6-9 0-0 12, Warren 5-11 0-0 12, Watanabe 1-3 2-2 5, Sharpe 1-1 0-0 2, Curry 2-9 0-0 5, Sumner 1-6 2-2 4, Thomas 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals** 46-93 12-13 118.

Three-point Goals: Milwaukee 9-37 (Beauchamp 2-5, Connaughton 2-5, Lopez 2-5, Holiday 2-6, Allen 1-2, G.Antetokounmpo 0-1, Portis 0-3, Ingles 0-4, Carter 0-6), Brooklyn 14-32 (O'Neale 5-8, Irving 3-7, Warren 2-4, Durant 2-6, Watanabe 1-2, Curry 1-4, Sumner 0-1). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Milwaukee 45 (G.Antetokounmpo 13), Brooklyn 45 (Simmons 11). **Assists:** Milwaukee 17 (G.Antetokounmpo 7), Brooklyn 30 (Simmons 8). **Total Fouls:** Milwaukee 13, Brooklyn 18. **A:** 18,169 (17,732)

Celtics 121, Timberwolves 109

MINNESOTA	29	27	30	23	— 109
BOSTON	22	32	34	33	— 121

MINNESOTA: Edwards 13-25 1-1 30, McDaniels 7-15 2-3 17, Gobert 3-4 2-4 8, Rivers 1-3 0-0 2, Russell 6-13 6-7 21, Minott 0-1 0-0 0, Ryan 0-0 0-0 0, Reid 6-10 0-0 14, Knight 0-0 0-0 0, Garza 1-1 0-0 2, Forbes 0-1 0-0 0, Moore Jr. 1-1 0-0 2, Nowell 6-17 0-0 13. **Totals** 44-91 11-15 109.

BOSTON: Brown 13-29 7-10 36, Tatum 10-22 9-11 30, Horford 6-14 0-0 17, Smart 2-5 0-0 6, White 8-13 2-3 18, Hauser 0-2 0-0 0, Jackson 0-0 0-0 0, Vonleh 0-0 0-0 0, Williams 2-7 0-0 6, Kornet 1-4 0-0 2, Brogdon 2-4 2-2 6, Pritchard 0-0 0-0 0. **Totals** 44-100 20-26 121.

Three-point Goals: Minnesota 10-32 (Russell 3-7, Edwards 3-10, Reid 2-4, McDaniels 1-3, Nowell 1-7, Minott 0-1), Boston 13-46 (Horford 5-10, Brown 3-13, Smart 2-4, Williams 2-6, Tatum 1-6, Brogdon 0-2, Hauser 0-2, White 0-3). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Minnesota 45 (Gobert 12), Boston 53 (Horford 11). **Assists:** Minnesota 25 (Russell 10), Boston 28 (Smart 10). **Total Fouls:** Minnesota 18, Boston 16. **A:** 19,156 (18,624)

Bulls 118, Knicks 117

CHICAGO	29	29	31	29	— 118
NEW YORK	22	38	32	25	— 117

CHICAGO: DeRozan 9-21 6-7 25, Williams 3-8 0-0 7, Vucevic 8-16 2-2 21, Dosunmu 4-8 0-0 9, LaVine 12-22 5-5 33, Drummond 3-7 0-2 6, Dragic 3-6 1-2 9, White 3-5 0-0 8. **Totals** 45-93 14-18 118.

NEW YORK: Barrett 14-20 10-13 44, Randle 11-22 2-5 29, Robinson 1-3 0-0 2, Brunson 5-15 1-4 12, Grimes 3-11 0-2 8, Hartenstein 2-2 0-0 5, Sims 0-0 0-0 0, McBride 1-3 0-0 2, Quickley 6-10 2-2 15. **Totals** 43-86 15-26 117.

Three-point Goals: Chicago 14-31 (LaVine 4-9, Vucevic 3-7, Dragic 2-4, White 2-4, Dosunmu 1-2, Williams 1-2, DeRozan 1-3), New York 16-35 (Barrett 6-6, Randle 5-10, Grimes 2-8, Hartenstein 1-1, Brunson 1-3, Quickley 1-5, McBride 0-2). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Chicago 41 (Vucevic 12), New York 47 (Randle 12). **Assists:** Chicago 24 (DeRozan 10), New York 23 (Brunson 9). **Total Fouls:** Chicago 22, New York 17. **A:** 19,812 (19,812)

Mavericks 112, Rockets 106

DALLAS	30	31	20	31	— 112
HOUSTON	24	26	34	22	— 106

DALLAS: Bullock 1-4 0-0 3, Hardaway Jr. 2-13 3-4 7, Wood 2-6 3-3 8, Dinwiddie 3-8 2-2 11, Doncic 17-30 10-12 50, Bertans 3-7 3-3 11, McGee 1-1 0-0 2, Powell 1-1 1-1 3, Pinson 2-3 0-0 6, Ntilikina 3-4 2-2 9, Wright IV 1-3 0-0 2. **Totals** 36-80 24-27 112.

HOUSTON: Martin Jr. 4-7 0-0 10, Smith Jr. 10-17 1-1 24, Sengun 6-9 7-8 19, Ja.Green 7-18 11-12 25, Porter Jr. 5-13 3-3 14, Eason 3-5 0-0 7, Garuba 1-3 0-0 2, Fernando 0-1 2-2 2, Christopher 0-1 0-0 0, Mathews 0-1 0-0 0, Nix 1-2 0-2 3, Washington Jr. 1-5 0-0 2. **Totals** 38-82 24-28 108.

Three-point Goals: Dallas 16-44 (Doncic 6-12, Dinwiddie 3-8, Pinson 2-2, Bertans 2-6, Ntilikina 1-2, Wood 1-3, Bullock 1-4, Hardaway Jr. 0-7), Houston 8-26 (Smith Jr. 3-8, Martin Jr. 2-2, Eason 1-1, Nix 1-2, Porter Jr. 1-7, Mathews 0-1, Washington Jr. 0-1, Ja.Green 0-4). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Dallas 34 (Doncic 8), Houston 45 (Smith Jr. 10). **Assists:** Dallas 20 (Doncic 10), Houston 27 (Sengun 8). **Total Fouls:** Dallas 21, Houston 21. **A:** 16,989 (18,500)

Pacers 111, Heat 108

INDIANA	31	25	28	27	— 111
MIAMI	28	30	24	26	— 108

INDIANA: Hield 7-15 0-0 21, Mathurin 2-6 1-2 6, Turner 2-4 1-1 5, Haliburton 14-20 5-5 43, Nembhard 4-11 0-0 10, Smith 6-9 1-1 14, Brissett 2-6 2-5 6, Duarte 2-6 0-0 4, McConnell 1-6 0-0 2. **Totals** 40-83 10-14 111.

MIAMI: Butler 6-11 7-8 20, Martin 0-1 0-0 0, Adebayo 8-19 2-2 18, Herro 10-23 3-3 28, Lowry 8-16 1-1 21, Highsmith 5-7 0-0 10, Strus 2-9 0-0 6, O.Robinson 0-2 0-0 0, Oladipo 2-7 0-0 5. **Totals** 41-95 13-14 108.

Three-point Goals: Indiana 21-47 (Haliburton 10-16, Hield 7-11, Nembhard 2-8, Mathurin 1-1, Smith 1-3, McConnell 0-1, Turner 0-1, Brissett 0-2, Duarte 0-4), Miami 13-33 (Herro 5-13, Lowry 4-8, Strus 2-7, Butler 1-2, Oladipo 1-2, Highsmith 0-1). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** Indiana 43 (Smith, Turner 11), Miami 38 (Adebayo 7). **Assists:** Indiana 26 (Haliburton 7), Miami 23 (Lowry 5). **Total Fouls:** Indiana 23, Miami 13. **A:** 19,600 (19,600)

Pelicans 128, Thunder 125 (OT)

NEW ORLEANS	33	31	16	32	16	—128
OKLAHOMA CITY	23	23	31	35	13	—125

NEW ORLEANS: Marshall 4-10 8-10 17, Murphy III 8-13 2-2 23, Valanciunas 4-8 2-2 10, Jones 4-12 7-8 15, McCollum 5-18 4-4 17, Hayes 8-9 5-8 21, Hernangomez 2-5 1-2 5, Alvarado 3-10 2-2 11, Daniels 0-3 0-0 0, Graham 3-6 2-2 9. **Totals** 41-94 33-40 128.

OKLAHOMA CITY: Dort 3-10 4-7 10, Jal.Williams 4-12 3-4 11, Pokusevski 7-11 0-0 17, Giddey 9-15 0-0 20, Gilgeous-Alexander 17-29 7-9 44, Bazley 0-0 0-0 0, Waters III 0-1 0-0 0, Muscala 1-4 2-2 5, K.Williams 3-6 2-3 9, Joe 0-4 0-0 0, Mann 3-8 0-0 9, Wiggins 0-2 0-0 0. **Totals** 47-102 18-25 125.

Three-point Goals: New Orleans 13-37 (Murphy III 5-8, Alvarado 3-7, McCollum 3-8, Graham 1-4, Marshall 1-4, Daniels 0-1, Valanciunas 0-2, Jones 0-3), Oklahoma City 13-35 (Gilgeous-Alexander 3-4, Mann 3-5, Pokusevski 3-5, Giddey 2-3, K.Williams 1-3, Muscala 1-3, Waters III 0-1, Wiggins 0-1, Jal.Williams 0-3, Joe 0-3, Dort 0-4). **Fouled Out:** None. **Rebounds:** New Orleans 55 (Marshall 8), Oklahoma City 47 (Giddey, Gilgeous-Alexander 10). **Assists:** New Orleans 30 (McCollum 11), Oklahoma City 27 (Giddey, Gilgeous-Alexander 6). **Total Fouls:** New Orleans 21, Oklahoma City 26. **A:** 15,214 (18,203)

Nuggets 120, Trail Blazers 107

PORTLAND	27	37	16	27	— 107
DENVER	32	26	35	27	— 120

PORTLAND: Grant 7-13 3-5 20, Hart 6-8 2-2 14, Nurkic 4-10 2-4 11, Lillard 10-22 10-10 34, Simons 6-22 1-2 14, Watford 2-3 0-0 4, Eubanks 1-2 0-0 2, Johnson 2-4 2-3 6, Sharpe 1-3 0-0 2. **Totals** 39-87 20-26 107.

DENVER: Gordon 6-9 1-3 13, Porter Jr. 7-13 2-3 18, Jokic 12-21 5-8 29, Caldwell-Pope 5-8 1-2 14, Murray 9-17 4-6 25, Green 1-1 0-0 2, Nnaji 1-1 1-2 3, Brown 4-6 0-0 9, Hyland 2-5 2-2 7. **Totals** 47-81 16-26 120.

Three-point Goals: Portland 9-35 (Lillard 4-11, Grant 3-6, Nurkic 1-2, Simons 1-10, Sharpe 0-1, Watford 0-1, Hart 0-2, Johnson 0-2), Denver 10-21 (Caldwell-Pope 3-5, Murray 3-5, Porter Jr. 2-6, Brown 1-2, Hyland 1-2, Gordon 0-1). **Fouled Out:** Portland 1 (Nurkic), Denver None. **Rebounds:** Portland 43 (Hart 11), Denver 38 (Jokic, Murray 8). **Assists:** Portland 24 (Lillard 8), Denver 31 (Murray 12). **Total Fouls:** Portland 21, Denver 19. **A:** 19,619 (19,520)

TRANSACTIONS

NFL

Baltimore Ravens: Waived LB Josh Bynes. Promoted QB Anthony Brown and WR Andy Isabella from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed DT Isaiah Mack.
Buffalo Bills: Promoted WR Cole Beasley and DE Kingsley Jonathan from the practice squad to the active roster.
Carolina Panthers: Placed CB Justin Layne on the reserve/did not report list.
Chicago Bears: Placed DBs Jaylon Johnson and Kindle Vildor on injured reserve. Reinstated RB Khalil Herbert from injured reserve Promoted DB Breon Borders, TE Chase Allen and WR Nsimba Webster from the practice squad to the active roster.
Cincinnati Bengals: Promoted CB Allan George from the practice squad to the active roster.
Cleveland Browns: Reinstated C Ethan Pocic from injured reserve. Promoted LB Tae Davis from the practice squad to the active roster. Signed RT Jack Conklin to a four-year contract extension. Waived C Greg Mancz.
Dallas Cowboys: Promoted C Brock Hoffman and CB Mackenzie Alexander from the practice squad to the active roster.
Detroit Lions: Promoted S Brady Breeze and TE Garrett Griffin from the practice squad to the active roster.
Green Bay Packers: Signed OL Elgton Jenkins to a four-year contract extension.
Houston Texans: Reinstated DB Grayland Arnold from injured reserve. Placed WR Nico Collins on injured reserve. Signed WR Malik Turner to the practice squad.
Kansas City Chiefs: Reinstated TE Blake Bell from injured reserve. Promoted T Danny Shelton from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed TE Jody Fortson on injured reserve.
Minnesota Vikings: Promoted G Kyle Hinton from the practice squad to the active roster.
New England Patriots: Promoted K Tristan Vizcaino, WR Scotty Washington and LS Tucker Addington from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed LS Joe Cardona on injured reserve.
Philadelphia Eagles: Promoted LB Christian Elliss and P Brett Kern from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed TE Tyree Jackson on injured reserve.
San Francisco 49ers: Reinstated DT Javon Kinlaw from injured reserve. Released LB Curtis Robinson. Promoted DL Michael Dwumfour and WR Willie Snead from the practice squad to the active roster.
Seattle Seahawks: Promoted RBs Godwin Igwebuike and Wayne Gallman from the practice squad to the active roster.
Tampa Bay Buccaneers: Placed OLB Genard Avery on injured reserve. Signed WR Deven Thompkins.
Tennessee Titans: Reinstated LB Zach Cunningham from injured reserve. Promoted OL Xavier Newman, LB Andre Smith and RB Jonathan Ward from the practice squad to the active roster. Placed G Nate Davis on injured reserve. Released OL Beau Benzchawel from the practice squad.

NHL

NHL: Suspended Minnesota F Mason Shaw for two games without pay for kneeing an opponent during a Dec. 22 game against San Jose.

HOCKEY

NHL

ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Boston	33	27	4	2	56	130	74
Toronto	34	21	7	6	48	111	82
Tampa Bay	32	20	11	1	41	115	97
Detroit	32	14	11	7	35	98	105
Buffalo	32	16	14	2	34	127	109
Florida	35	15	16	4	34	114	120
Montreal	34	15	16	3	33	95	118
Ottawa	33	14	16	3	31	100	106

METROPOLITAN	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	34	22	6	6	50	106	90
New Jersey	34	22	10	2	46	115	87
Pittsburgh	33	19	9	5	43	114	95
N.Y. Rangers	35	19	11	5	43	116	96
Washington	36	19	13	4	42	111	102
N.Y. Islanders	35	19	14	2	40	112	98
Philadelphia	35	11	17	7	29	90	119
Columbus	33	10	21	2	22	89	135

CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
Dallas	35	20	9	6	46	125	99
Winnipeg	34	21	12	1	43	111	88
Colorado	32	19	11	2	40	96	84
Minnesota	33	19	12	2	40	106	95
Nashville	32	14	13	5	33	82	98
x-St. Louis	33	16	16	1	33	104	121
x-Arizona	31	10	16	5	25	86	117
Chicago	32	8	20	4	20	75	122

PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA
x-Vegas	35	23	11	1	47	119	99
x-Los Angeles	36	19	12	5	43	121	127
Seattle	32	18	10	4	40	113	104
Edmonton	35	18	15	2	38	128	125
x-Calgary	34	15	12	7	37	108	108
Vancouver	33	15	15	3	33	117	131
San Jose	35	11	18	6	28	108	129
x-Anaheim	34	9	22	3	21	82	144

x-Late game

THURSDAY'S RESULTS
Washington 3, at Ottawa 2 (OT)
at Toronto 4, Philadelphia 3
at Boston 3, Winnipeg 2
at N.Y. Rangers 5, N.Y. Islanders 3
Carolina 4, at Pittsburgh 3 (OT)
at Vancouver 6, Seattle 5 (SO)
at Los Angeles 4, Calgary 3 (OT)
at San Jose 5, Minnesota 2

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
at Washington 4, Winnipeg 1
at Carolina 6, Philadelphia 5
Boston 4, at New Jersey 3
at N.Y. Islanders 5, Florida 1
Colorado 3, at Nashville 2(OT)
at Dallas 4, Montreal 2
at Chicago 5, Columbus 2
Vancouver 5, at Edmonton 2
Los Angeles at Arizona, late
St. Louis at Vegas, late
Calgary at Anaheim, late
Detroit at Ottawa, ppd.

SATURDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

SUNDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

MONDAY'S GAMES
No games scheduled

Bruins 4, Devils 3

BOSTON	0	4	0	— 4
NEW JERSEY	1	0	2	— 3

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, New Jersey, Hughes 18 (Hischier, Hamilton), 16:36 (pp).
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 2, Boston, Bergeron 13 (DeBrusk), 3:12. 3, Boston, Pastrnak 23 (Krejci, Zacha), 4:34. 4, Boston, Pastrnak 24 (Krejci, Clifton), 9:52. 5, Boston, DeBrusk 13 (Marchand), 17:27.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 6, New Jersey, Tatar 9 (Smith, Hischier), 11:01. 7, New Jersey, Sharangovich 10 (Tatar, Hamilton), 13:47.
SHOTS ON GOAL

BOSTON	5	13	5	— 23
NEW JERSEY	11	12	17	— 40

Power-play opportunities: Boston 0 of 0; New Jersey 1 of 0. **Goalies:** Boston, Ullmark 18-1-1 (40 shots-37 saves). New Jersey, Blackwood 5-2-0 (18-14), New Jersey, Vanecek 12-4-2 (5-5). **A:** 16,514 (16,514). **T:** 2:20.

Hurricanes 6, Flyers 5

PHILADELPHIA	1	1	3	— 5
CAROLINA	3	3	0	— 6

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Carolina, Fast 3 (Staal, Martinook), 3:57. 2, Philadelphia, Sanheim 4 (Frost, DeAngelo), 11:03. 3, Carolina, Noesen 7 (Svechnikov, Necas), 14:32 (pp). 4, Carolina, Fast 4 (Martinook, Staal), 19:05.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 5, Philadelphia, DeAngelo 6 (Farabee), 1:01. 6, Carolina, Svechnikov 18 (Stastny, Necas), 5:57. 7, Carolina, Martinook 8 (Pesce, Staal), 7:58. 8, Carolina, Kotkaniemi 5 (Pesce, Teravainen), 17:52 (pp).
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 9, Philadelphia, Seeler 3 (Ristolainen, Cates), 6:59. 10, Philadelphia, Laughton 7 (Konecny), 7:41 (sh). 11, Philadelphia, Konecny 15 (York, Laughton), 12:24 (sh).
SHOTS ON GOAL

PHILADELPHIA	5	10	16	— 31
CAROLINA	14	15	8	— 37

Power-play opportunities: Philadelphia 0 of 2; Carolina 2 of 4. **Goalies:** Philadelphia, Hart 10-11-6 (7 shots-6 saves), Philadelphia, Ersson 0-0-0 (30-25). Carolina, Raanta 7-2-2 (31-26). **A:** 18,680 (18,680). **T:** 2:34.

Islanders 5, Panthers 1

FLORIDA	1	0	0	— 1
N.Y. ISLANDERS	0	2	3	— 5

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Florida, Tkachuk 15 (Montour), 8:09.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 2, N.Y. Islanders, Beauvillier 7 (Nelson, Dobson), 5:20. 3, N.Y. Islanders, Pulock 2 (Pageau), 19:15.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 4, N.Y. Islanders, Raty 1 (Lee, Beauvillier), 7:10. 5, N.Y. Islanders, Parise 11 (Romanov), 8:21. 6, N.Y. Islanders, Beauvillier 8 (Lee), 15:50 (en).
SHOTS ON GOAL

FLORIDA	8	6	9	— 23
N.Y. ISLANDERS	12	16	15	— 43

Power-play opportunities: Florida 0 of 3; N.Y. Islanders 0 of 6. **Goalies:** Florida, Bobrovsky 7-11-1 (42 shots-38 saves). N.Y. Islanders, Sorokin 11-11-1 (23-22). **A:** 17,255 (17,113). **T:** 2:24.

Stars 4, Canadiens 2

MONTREAL	1	1	0	— 2
DALLAS	0	1	3	— 4

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Montreal, Evans 1 (Harris, Pezzetta), 4:04 (pp).
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 2, Montreal, Pezzetta 2 (Xhekaj), 2:24. 3, Dallas, Hintz 15 (Benn, Robertson), 15:19 (pp).
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 4, Dallas, Hintz 16 (Pavelski, Robertson), 2:27 (pp). 5, Dallas, Johnston 10 (Suter), 15:00 (pp). 6, Dallas, Kiviranta 5, 19:43 (en).
SHOTS ON GOAL

MONTREAL	8	8	8	— 24
DALLAS	9	13	14	— 36

Power-play opportunities: Montreal 1 of 2; Dallas 3 of 5. **Goalies:** Montreal, Allen 9-13-1 (35 shots-32 saves). Dallas, Oettinger 14-5-3 (24-22). **A:** 18,532 (18,532). **T:** 2:32.

Avalanche 3, Predators 2 (OT)

COLORADO	0	1	1	1	— 3
NASHVILLE	1	1	0	0	— 2

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Nashville, Johansen 9 (Josi, Novak), 12:26 (pp).
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 2, Nashville, Duchene 10 (Glass, Niederreiter), 6:22. 3, Colorado, Rantanen 23 (O'Connor), 12:46.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 4, Colorado, Compher 5 (Lehkonen, Rantanen), 15:05.
OVERTIME
Scoring: 5, Colorado, Girard 2 (Rodrigues), 4:17.
SHOTS ON GOAL

COLORADO	8	21	15	2	— 46
NASHVILLE	15	9	14	1	— 39

Power-play opportunities: Colorado 0 of 4; Nashville 1 of 3. **Goalies:** Colorado, Georgiev 15-6-2 (39 shots-37 saves). Nashville, Saros 11-9-5 (46-43). **A:** 17,159 (17,113). **T:** 2:38.

Kings 4, Flames 3 (OT)

Late Thursday

CALGARY	1	0	2	0	— 3
LOS ANGELES	1	0	2	1	— 4

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Calgary, Huberdeau 6 (Lucic), 3:23. 2, Los Angeles, Vilardi 14 (Lizotte, Walker), 17:41.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Los Angeles, Danault 9 (Iafallo), 1:29. 4, Los Angeles, Lizotte 7 (Vilardi), 1:39. 5, Calgary, Toffoli 14 (Andersson, Ruzicka), 6:46 (pp). 6, Calgary, Dube 8 (Lindholm, Hanifin), 13:32.
OVERTIME
Scoring: 7, Los Angeles, Kempe 13 (Arvidsson), 3:23.
SHOTS ON GOAL

CALGARY	3	11	14	2	— 30
LOS ANGELES	10	6	15	2	— 33

Power-play opportunities: Calgary 1 of 2; Los Angeles 0 of 3. **Goalies:** Calgary, Vladar 5-4-3 (32 shots-28 saves). Los Angeles, Copley 6-1-0 (30-27). **A:** 16,731 (18,230). **T:** 2:27.

Sharks 5, Wild 2

Late Thursday

MINNESOTA	1	1	0	— 2
SAN JOSE	2	2	1	— 5

FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, San Jose, Karlsson 13 (Barabanov, Megna), 0:44. 2, Minnesota, Eriksson Ek 12 (Merrill), 2:20. 3, San Jose, Gregor 2 (Karlsson, Benning), 11:37.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 4, San Jose, Meier 18 (Karlsson, Bonino), 12:47 (pp). 5, San Jose, Lindblom 2 (Karlsson, Meier), 17:19. 6, Minnesota, Zuccarello 15 (Boldy, Kaprizov), 19:54.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 7, San Jose, Labanc 8, 19:46 (en).
SHOTS ON GOAL

MINNESOTA	10	6	10	— 26
SAN JOSE	10	11	4	— 25

Power-play opportunities: Minnesota 0 of 4; San Jose 2 of 6. **Goalies:** Minnesota, Gustavsson 7-5-1 (24 shots-20 saves). San Jose, Reimer 7-9-3 (26-24). **A:** 13,128 (17,562). **T:** 2:28.

Canucks 6, Kraken 5 (SO)

Late Thursday

SEATTLE	1	3	1	0	— 5
VANCOUVER	1	1	3	1	— 6

VANCOUVER WON SHOOTOUT 2-1
FIRST PERIOD
Scoring: 1, Seattle, McCann 16 (Beniers, Soucy), 7:01. 2, Vancouver, Pederson 1 (Pettersson, Kuzmenko), 17:17.
SECOND PERIOD
Scoring: 3, Seattle, Bjorkstrand 4 (Schwartz), 3:28. 4, Seattle, Sprong 9 (Larsson, Geekie), 3:38. 5, Vancouver, Pettersson 14 (Kuzmenko, Schenn), 8:09. 6, Seattle, Wennberg 6 (Borgen, Bjorkstrand), 13:29.
THIRD PERIOD
Scoring: 7, Vancouver, Kuzmenko 14 (Pederson, Pettersson), 5:13. 8, Seattle, Sprong 10 (Tanev), 6:17. 9, Vancouver, Boeser 5 (Pettersson, Hughes), 8:52 (pp). 10, Vancouver, Pettersson 15 (Miller), 18:40.
SHOOTOUT
Vancouver 2 (Kuzmenko NG, Miller G, Pettersson G), Seattle 1 (Donato NG, Sprong NG, Eberle G).
SHOTS ON GOAL

SEATTLE	9	14	11	2	— 36
VANCOUVER	9	14	13	1	— 37

Power-play opportunities: Seattle 0 of 1; Vancouver 1 of 3. **Goalies:** Seattle, Jones 14-5-3 (37 shots-32 saves). Vancouver, Martin 10-5-1 (36-31). **A:** 18,794 (18,910). **T:** 2:41.

GOLF

World Golf Ranking

Through Monday.

1.	Rory McIlroy	8.78
2.	Scottie Scheffler	8.56
3.	Cameron Smith	7.70
4.	Patrick Cantlay	7.40
5.	Jon Rahm	6.67
6.	Xander Schauffele	6.31
7.	Will Zalatoris	5.91
8.	Justin Thomas	5.53
9.	Matt Fitzpatrick	5.36
10.	Viktor Hovland	5.33

TENNIS

ATP

SINGLES RANKINGS
Through Tuesday.
1. Carlos Alcaraz, Spain, 6820
2. Rafael Nadal, Spain, 6020
3. Casper Ruud, Norway, 5820
4. Stefanos Tsitsipas, Greece, 5550
5. Novak Djokovic, Serbia, 4820
6. Felix Auger-Aliassime, Canada, 4195
7. Daniil Medvedev, Russia, 4065
8. Andrey Rublev, Russia, 3930
9. Taylor Fritz, USA, 3355
10. Hubert Hurkacz, Poland, 2905
11. Holger Rune, Denmark, 2888
12. Alexander Zverev, Germany, 2700
13. Pablo Carreno Busta, Spain, 2495
14. Cameron Norrie, Great Britain, 2445
15. Jannik Sinner, Italy, 2410
16. Matteo Berrettini, Italy, 2375
17. Marin Cilic, Croatia, 2105
18. Denis Shapovalov, Canada, 2075
19. Frances Tiafoe, USA, 2000
20. Karen Khachanov, Russia, 1990
21. Roberto Bautista Agut, Spain, 1940
22. Nick Kyrgios, Australia, 1870
23. Lorenzo Musetti, Italy, 1865
24. Alex de Minaur, Australia, 1790
25. Diego Schwartzman, Argentina, 1700
26. Borna Coric, Croatia, 1685
27. Daniel Evans, Great Britain, 1585
28. Grigor Dimitrov, Bulgaria, 1460
29. Miomir Kecmanovic, Serbia, 1420
30. Francisco Cerundolo, Argentina, 1395
31. Alejandro Davidovich Fokina, Spain, 1280
32. Tommy Paul, USA, 1210
33. Sebastian Korda, USA, 1175
34. Maxime Cressy, USA, 1163
35. Botic Van de Zandschulp, Netherlands, 1160
36. Yoshihito Nishioka, Japan, 1134
37. Alexander Bublik, Kazakhstan, 1130
38. Reilly Opelka, USA, 1095
39. Albert Ramos-Vinolas, Spain, 1075
40. Emil Ruusuvuori, Finland, 1011
41. John Isner, USA, 1005
42. Jack Draper, Great Britain, 990
43. Sebastian Baez, Argentina, 987
44. Arthur Rinderknech, France, 952
45. Lorenzo Sonego, Italy, 950
46. Adrian Mannarino, France, 946
47. Brandon Nakashima, USA, 927
48. Jenson Brooksby, USA, 920
49. Andy Murray, Great Britain, 920
50. Alex Molcan, Slovakia, 895

WTA

SINGLES RANKINGS
Through Tuesday.
1. Iga Swiatek, Poland, 11085
2. Ons Jabeur, Tunisia, 5055
3. Jessica Pegula, USA, 4691
4. Caroline Garcia, France, 4375
5. Aryna Sabalenka, Belarus, 3925
6. Maria Sakkari, Greece, 3871
7. Coco Gauff, USA, 3646
8. Daria Kasatkina, Russia, 3435
9. Veronika Kudermetova, Russia, 2795
10. Simona Halep, Romania, 2661
11. Madison Keys, USA, 2417
12. Belinda Bencic, Switzerland, 2365
13. Paula Badosa, Spain, 2363
14. Danielle Collins, USA, 2287
15. Beatriz Haddad Maia, Brazil, 2215
16. Petra Kvitova, Czech Republic, 2097
17. Anett Kontaveit, Estonia, 2093
18. Jelena Ostapenko, Latvia, 1986
19. Ekaterina Alexandrova, Russia, 1910
20. Liudmila Samsonova, Russia, 1910
21. Elena Rybakina, Kazakhstan, 1860
22. Barbora Krejcikova, Czech Republic, 1850
23. Amanda Anisimova, USA, 1746
24. Marie Bouzkova, Czech Republic, 1607
25. Zhang Shuai, China, 1600
26. Victoria Azarenka, Belarus, 1597
27. Zheng Qinwen, China, 1578
28. Martina Trevisan, Italy, 1528
29. Elise Mertens, Belgium, 1475
30. Aliaksandra Sasnovich, Belarus, 1428
31. Karolina Pliskova, Czech Republic, 1426
32. Kaia Kanepi, Estonia, 1380
33. Ajla Tomljanovic, Australia, 1365
34. Irina-Camelia Begu, Romania, 1347
35. Jil Teichmann, Switzerland, 1336
36. Alize Cornet, France, 1328
37. Sloane Stephens, USA, 1244
38. Petra Martic, Croatia, 1203
39. Anhelina Kalinina, Ukraine, 1197
40. Leylah Annie Fernandez, Canada, 1193
41. Alison Riske-Amritraj, USA, 1180
42. Naomi Osaka, Japan, 1122
43. Anastasia Potapova, Russia, 1119
44. Bernarda Pera, USA, 1097
45. Sorana Cirstea, Romania, 1087
46. Bianca Andreescu, Canada, 1066
47. Shelby Rogers, USA, 1065
48. Magda Linette, Poland, 1030
49. Katerina Siniakova, Czech Republic, 1000
50. Wang Xiyu, China, 997

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NCAA bowl schedule

SATURDAY, DEC. 17
FENWAY BOWL — IN BOSTON
Louisville 24, Cincinnati 7
CELEBRATION BOWL — IN ATLANTA
North Carolina Central 41, Jackson State 34 (OT)
NEW MEXICO BOWL — IN ALBUQUERQUE
BYU 24, SMU 23
L.A. BOWL — IN INGLEWOOD, CALIF.
Fresno State 29, Washington State 6
LENDINGTREE BOWL — IN MOBILE, ALA.
Southern Mississippi 38, Rice 24
LAS VEGAS BOWL — IN LAS VEGAS
No. 14 Oregon State 30, Florida 3
FRISCO BOWL —IN FRISCO, TEX.
Boise State 35, North Texas 32

MONDAY'S RESULT
MYRTLE BEACH BOWL — IN CONWAY, S.C.
Marshall 28, Connecticut 14

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
FAMOUS IDAHO POTATO BOWL — IN BOISE
Eastern Michigan 41, San Jose State 27
BOCA RATON BOWL — IN BOCA RATON, FLA.
Toledo 21, Liberty 19

WEDNESDAY'S RESULT
NEW ORLEANS BOWL — IN NEW ORLEANS
Western Kentucky 44, South Alabama 23

THURSDAY'S RESULT
ARMED FORCES BOWL — IN FORT WORTH
Air Force 30, Baylor 15

FRIDAY'S RESULTS
INDEPENDENCE BOWL — IN SHREVEPORT, LA.
Houston 23, Louisiana Lafayette 16
GASPARILLA BOWL — IN TAMPA
Wake Forest 27, Missouri 17

SATURDAY'S GAME
HAWAII BOWL — IN HONOLULU
Middle Tennessee vs. San Diego State, 8

MONDAY'S GAME
QUICK LANE BOWL — IN DETROIT
New Mexico State vs. Bowling Green, 2:30

TUESDAY'S GAMES
FIRST RESPONDER BOWL — IN DALLAS
Memphis vs. Utah State, 3:15
BIRMINGHAM BOWL — IN BIRMINGHAM, ALA.
Coastal Carolina vs. East Carolina, 6:45
CAMELLIA BOWL — IN MONTGOMERY, ALA.
Georgia Southern vs. Buffalo, noon
GUARANTEED RATE BOWL — IN PHOENIX
Wisconsin vs. Oklahoma State, 10:15

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
MILITARY BOWL — IN ANNAPOLIS
UCF vs. Duke, 2
LIBERTY BOWL — IN MEMPHIS
Arkansas vs. Kansas, 5:30
HOLIDAY BOWL — IN SAN DIEGO
No. 15 Oregon vs. North Carolina, 8
TEXAS BOWL — IN HOUSTON
Texas Tech vs. Mississippi, 9

THURSDAY'S GAMES
PINSTRIPE BOWL — IN NEW YORK
Syracuse vs. Minnesota, 2
CHEEZ-IT BOWL — IN ORLANDO
No. 13 Florida State vs. Oklahoma, 5:30
ALAMO BOWL — IN SAN ANTONIO
No. 12 Washington vs. No. 20 Texas, 9

FRIDAY'S GAMES
ORANGE BOWL — IN MIAMI GARDENS, FLA.
No. 6 Tennessee vs. No. 7 Clemson, 8
DUKE'S MAYO BOWL — IN CHARLOTTE
No. 23 North Carolina State vs. Maryland, noon
SUN BOWL — IN EL PASO
No. 18 UCLA vs. Pittsburgh, 2
GATOR BOWL — IN JACKSONVILLE, FLA.
No. 21 Notre Dame vs. No. 19 South Carolina, 3:30
ARIZONA BOWL — IN TUCSON
Wyoming vs. Ohio, 4:30

SATURDAY, DEC. 31
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
PEACH BOWL — IN ATLANTA
No. 1 Georgia vs. No. 4 Ohio State, 8
COLLEGE FOOTBALL PLAYOFF SEMIFINAL
FIESTA BOWL — IN GLENDALE, ARIZ.
No. 2 Michigan vs. No. 3 TCU, 4
MUSIC CITY BOWL — IN NASHVILLE
Kentucky vs. Iowa, noon
SUGAR BOWL — IN NEW ORLEANS
No. 5 Alabama vs. No. 9 Kansas State, noon

MONDAY, JAN. 2
RELIAQUEST BOWL — IN TAMPA
No. 22 Mississippi State vs. Illinois, noon
CITRUS BOWL — IN ORLANDO
No. 17 LSU vs. Purdue, 1
COTTON BOWL CLASSIC — IN ARLINGTON, TEX.
No. 10 Southern California vs. No. 16 Tulane, 1
ROSE BOWL — IN PASADENA, CALIF.
No. 8 Utah vs. No. 11 Penn State, 5

MONDAY, JAN. 9
COLLEGE FOOTBALL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP IN INGLEWOOD, CALIF.
Semifinal winners, 7:30

Houston 23, La. Lafayette 16

LOUISIANA LAFAYETTE	7	9	0	0	— 16
HOUSTON	0	6	7	10	— 23

FIRST QUARTER
ULL: Lumpkin 4 pass from Fields (Almendares kick), 7:39.
SECOND QUARTER
ULL: FG Almendares 42, 9:35.
ULL: FG Almendares 42, 7:05.
HOU: Ke.Carter 33 pass from Tune (kick failed), 3:00.
ULL: FG Almendares 22, :02.
THIRD QUARTER
HOU: Dell 2 pass from Tune (Ramsey kick), 9:21.
FOURTH QUARTER
HOU: FG Ramsey 19, 13:40.
HOU: Dell 12 pass from Tune (Ramsey kick), :20.

	ULL	Houston
First Downs	21	22
Total Net Yards	323	363
Rushes-Yards	33-129	38-134
Passing	194	229
Punt Returns	2-36	1-25
Kickoff Returns	4-35	4-41
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	21-31-1	18-27-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	1-4	2-13
Punts	3-29.333	3-33.333
Fumbles-Lost	3-2	1-0
Penalties-Yards	5-63	7-60
Time Of Possession	27:50	47:10

PASSING
ULL: Fields 17-25-0-169, Chriss 4-6-1-25. **Houston:** Tune 18-27-0-229.
RUSHING
ULL: C.Smith 14-48, Fields 6-32, Chriss 4-26, D.Washington 3-11, T.Williams 5-8, LeBlanc 1-4. **Houston:** Tune 11-55, T.Henry 12-45, Campbell 8-22, Sneed 6-12, (Team) 1-0.
RECEIVING
ULL: LeGendre 5-56, Stephens 3-47, N.Johnson 3-19, Rogers 2-21, Migl 2-15, Lumpkin 2-14, T.Williams 2-3, Cambre 1-15, C.Smith 1-4. **Houston:** Dell 6-44, Manjack 4-35, Carter 3-104, Golden 2-17, T.Henry 1-14, Byrnes 1-13, Sneed 1-2.

Wake Forest 27, Missouri 17

WAKE FOREST	7	7	6	7	— 27
MISSOURI	3	7	7	0	— 17

FIRST QUARTER
WAKE: Morin 5 pass from Hartman (Dennis kick), 9:43.
MIZZ: FG Mevis 35, 1:46.
SECOND QUARTER
WAKE: Ellison 1 run (Dennis kick), 10:51.
MIZZ: Houston 1 pass from Cook (Mevis kick), 2:28.
THIRD QUARTER
MIZZ: Schrader 4 run (Mevis kick), 5:45.
WAKE: Banks 48 pass from Hartman (kick failed), 4:29.
FOURTH QUARTER
WAKE: Morin 16 pass from Hartman (Dennis kick), 2:33.

	Wake Forest	Missouri
First Downs	21	22
Total Net Yards	379	355
Rushes-Yards	35-99	34-129
Passing	280	226
Punt Returns	0-0	1-0
Kickoff Returns	0-0	2-51
Interceptions Ret.	0-0	1-0
Comp-Att-Int	23-37-1	28-47-0
Sacked-Yards Lost	3-10	4-32
Punts	7-32.0	5-38.6
Fumbles-Lost	0-0	3-1
Penalties-Yards	6-58	9-85
Time Of Possession	42:49	32:11

PASSING
Wake Forest: Hartman 23-37-1-280. **Missouri:** Cook 28-47-0-226.
RUSHING
Wake Forest: Ellison 21-64, Cooley 4-31, Hartman 8-8, (Team) 2-(minus 4). **Missouri:** Schrader 13-54, Cook 14-44, Peat 5-39, Burden 1-(minus 3), (Team) 1-(minus 5).
RECEIVING
Wake Forest: Perry 11-116, Banks 3-72, Morin 3-30, Cooley 2-15, D.Greene 1-27, Whiteheart 1-8, Bull 1-6, Ellison 1-6. **Missouri:** Cooper 7-68, Banister 7-49, Burden 6-52, Houston 5-31, M.Miller 2-22, Ta.Jones 1-4.

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TRUSTEE'S SALE OF
28 HILLTOP LANE, WASHINGTON, VA 22747

In execution of a certain Deed of Trust dated March 3, 2011, in the original principal amount of $938,250.00 recorded in the Clerk's Office, Circuit Court for **Rappahannock County**, Virginia as Instrument No. 110000290 . The undersigned Substitute Trustee will offer for sale at public auction in the front of the Circuit Court building for Rappahannock County, 238 Gay Street, Washington, Virginia on **February 22, 2023, at 2:45 PM,** the property described in said Deed of Trust, located at the above address, and more particularly described as follows:

ALL THAT CERTAIN TRACT OR PARCEL OF LYING AND BEING SITUATE IN THE HAMPTON MAGISTERIAL DISTRICT, RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, VIRGINIA, DESCRIBED AS LOT 2, CONTAINING 3.15 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, AS THE SAME IS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN AND DESCRIED ACCORDING TO A PLAT OF SURVEY BY DODSON SURVEYING, INC., (ARCHIE J. DODSON, JR.), DATED NOVEMBER 15, 2005 WHICH PLAT OF SURVEY IS RECORDED AS INSTRUMENT NO. 06-1126 IN THE CLERK'S OFFICE OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF RAPPAHANNOCK COUNTY, VIRGINIA. TOGETHER WITH THE RIGHT TO USE, IN COMMON WITH OTHERS, THAT CERTAIN FIFTY FOOT (50') WIDE RIGHT OF WAY FOR INGRESS AND EGRESS TO AND FROM VIRGINIA ROUTE 633, AS THE SAME IS MORE PARTICULARLY SHOWN AND DESCRIBED ACCORDING TO THE AFORESAID PLAT OF SURVEY BY DODSON SURVEYING, INC. (ARCHIE J. DODSON, JR.), DATED NOVEMBER 15, 2005.

TERMS OF SALE: ALL CASH. A bidder's deposit of ten percent (10%) of the sale price or ten percent (10%) of the original principal balance of the subject Deed of Trust, whichever is lower, in the form of cash or certified funds payable to the Substitute Trustee must be present at the time of the sale. The balance of the purchase price will be due within fifteen (15) days of sale, otherwise Purchaser's deposit may be forfeited to Trustee. Time is of the essence. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser may, if provided by the terms of the Trustee's Memorandum of Foreclosure Sale, be entitled to a $50 cancellation fee from the Substitute Trustee, but shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney. A form copy of the Trustee's memorandum of foreclosure sale and contract to purchase real property is available for viewing at www.bwwsales.com. Additional terms, if any, to be announced at the sale and the Purchaser may be given the option to execute the contract of sale electronically.

This is a communication from a debt collector and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The sale is subject to seller confirmation.

Substitute Trustee: Equity Trustees, LLC, 8100 Three Chopt Road, Suite 240, Richmond, VA 23229.

For more information contact: BWW Law Group, LLC, attorneys for Equity Trustees, LLC, 6003 Executive Blvd, Suite 101, Rockville, MD 20852, 301-961-6555, website: www.bwwsales.com. VA-356053-1.

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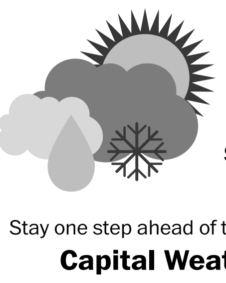

820 Official Notices

Notice of Public Hearing

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority
Proposed Changes to Transit Facilities at Takoma Metro Station • Washington, DC
Docket R23-01

Purpose

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority on proposed changes to transit facilities at the Takoma Metro Station in Washington, DC as follows:

Hearing No. 645

Tuesday, January 17, 2023
Open House 6 p.m. Public Hearing 6:30 p.m.
Takoma Elementary School - Auditorium
7010 Piney Branch Rd NW, Washington, DC 20012

This hearing will also be conducted virtually and testimony can be provided via phone or video (see below). The hearing can be viewed online at:
wmata.com/plansandprojects **or** youtube.com/metroforward

To listen via telephone: 855-925-2801, Meeting Code 4773

Please note that this date is subject to cancellation. In the event of a cancellation, Metro will post information about the rescheduled hearing on wmata.com

Sign language interpretation will be provided. Any individual who requires special assistance or additional accommodation to participate in this public hearing, or who requires these materials in an alternate format, should contact the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary at 202-962-2511 or TTY: 202-962-2033 as soon as possible in order for Metro to make necessary arrangements. For language assistance, such as an interpreter or information in another language, please call 202-962-1082 at least 48 hours prior to the public hearing date.

For more information please visit wmata.com/plansandprojects

PURPOSE OF THE PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) regarding the environmental report and general plans for changes to transit facilities at the Takoma Metro Station, Washington, D.C. At the hearing, WMATA will receive and consider public comments and suggestions about the proposal. The proposed design concepts may change as a result of this hearing.

HOW TO REGISTER TO SPEAK AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

All organizations or individuals desiring to be heard with respect to the proposal will be afforded the opportunity to present their views and make supporting statements and to offer alternative proposals. Public officials will be allowed five minutes each to make their presentations. All others will be allowed three minutes each. Relinquishing of time by one speaker to another will not be permitted.

Individuals can provide testimony at the hearing in one of three ways:

In person: Individuals wishing to provide testimony in person during the hearing are encouraged to pre-register by emailing speak@wmata.com or calling (202) 962-2511 by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Please submit only one speaker's name per request. Advance registration to provide in-person testimony is not required.

By videoconference: Individuals wishing to provide testimony during the hearing via videoconference are required to furnish, in writing, their name and organizational affiliation, if any, via email to speak@wmata.com by 10 a.m. on Tuesday, January 17, 2023. Please submit only one speaker's name per request.

By telephone: Individuals should call (855) 925-2801 during the hearing and enter Meeting Code 4773. Advance registration to provide testimony via telephone is not available.

HOW TO SUBMIT TESTIMONY NOT AT THE PUBLIC HEARING

Testimony may be submitted online about this proposal at wmata.com/plansandprojects. Options to submit testimony online include completing a survey, providing written comments or uploading letters or other documents. Online submission will begin at 9 a.m. on Saturday, December 17, 2022 and will close on Friday, January 27, 2023 at 5 p.m. This is in addition to your ability to speak at a public hearing. For those without access to computers or internet, testimony may also be mailed to the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, SECT 2E, Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, P.O. Box 44390, Washington, DC 20026-4390. All comments must be received by the Office of the Secretary by 5 p.m. on Friday, January 27, 2023 to be included in the public record.

The comments received by the Office of the Board Corporate Secretary, along with the online submissions and public hearing comments, will be presented to the WMATA Board of Directors and will be part of the official public hearing record. Please note all statements are releasable to the public and may be posted on WMATA's website, without change, including any personal information provided.

WHAT IS PROPOSED

WMATA proposes changes to the Takoma Metro Station ("Metro Station") to enable a joint development project ("Project"). The Project's site plan is consistent with Washington, DC's future land use vision for the area.

The Project includes the following modifications of WMATA facilities:

- Relocation of the bus loop and Kiss & Ride
- Addition of one alighting bus stop
- Removal of 144 Kiss & Ride spaces
- Addition of a traffic signal on Carroll Street NW at the WMATA bus loop and Kiss & Ride entrance

Because the Project includes a modification of WMATA facilities and facility access, an Environmental Evaluation (EE) has been prepared to assess the potential effects of this action on the human and natural environment in terms of transportation, social, economic, and environmental factors. Impacts identified in the EE are summarized in Table 1.

- For more information, please refer to the provided Environmental Evaluation.

Table 1 Project Environmental Impacts

Environmental Feature	Permanent Impacts	Construction-Related (Temporary) Impacts	Minimization & Mitigation Efforts
Transportation	Improved busway configuration with additional capacity and safer access. Daily parkers at Takoma Metro Station will be encouraged to use the Fort Totten Park & Ride facility	Disruption to pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular traffic during construction	Establish interim operations plan to maintain access during construction for motorized & non-motorized (bike/ped) traffic to the station
Stormwater	None – total impervious areas of transit facilities to be reduced	Minor sediment or erosion risk	Controls to be applied per District of Columbia requirements for construction operations
Air Quality and Noise	No impacts resulting from changes to transit facilities	Dust or noise from construction-related equipment and operation	Cleaning, minimizing night-time work, noise control measures.

REFERENCE MATERIAL AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

The docket consists of this Notice of Public Hearing, an environmental report, and general plans for the proposed changes to transit facilities at the Takoma Metro Station. These documents are available online at wmata.com/plansandprojects and may be inspected during normal business hours at the following location:

WMATA
Office of the Board Corporate Secretary
300 7th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20024
202-962-2511
(Please call in advance to coordinate)

WMATA COMPACT REQUIREMENTS

WMATA's Compact requires that the Board, in amending the Mass Transit Plan, consider current and prospective conditions in the transit zone should the project be built. The transit zone includes Fairfax County and considerations include, without limitation, land use, population, economic factors affecting development plans, existing and proposed transportation and transit facilities, any dislocation of families or businesses; preservation of the beauty and dignity of the DC Metro Area; factors affecting environmental amenities and aesthetics, and financial resources. The mass transit plan encompasses, among other things, transit facilities to be provided by WMATA, including stations and parking facilities, and the character, nature, design, location and capital and operating cost thereof. The mass transit plan, in addition to designating the design and location of transit facilities, also provides for capital and operating expenses, as well as "various other factors and considerations, which, in the opinion of the Board, justify and require the projects therein proposed" all as more particularly set forth in WMATA's Compact.

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